

**SUBJECT:** Requiring a SNAP benefit distribution schedule

**COMMITTEE:** Human Services — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Raymond, Frank, Keough, Klick, Minjarez, Rose, Swanson, Wu  
0 nays  
1 absent — Miller

**WITNESSES:** For — Dya Campos, H-E-B; George Kelemen, Texas Retailers Association; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Morris Wilkes, United Supermarkets)  
  
Against — None  
  
On — Rachel Cooper, Center for Public Policy Priorities; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Wayne Salter, Health and Human Services Commission)

**BACKGROUND:** Human Resources Code, sec. 33.002(c) requires the Department of Agriculture and the Health and Human Services Commission executive commissioner to establish policies and rules to ensure the widest and most efficient distribution of commodities and supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits to those eligible to receive them.  
  
Some observers contend that staggering the distribution of SNAP benefits over a longer period, rather than the current practice of distributing benefits across the first 15 days of each month, would help retailers manage their product inventory and allow consumers to purchase products using their SNAP benefits any time of the month.

**DIGEST:** HB 3565 would require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) executive commissioner by rule to establish a schedule for the distribution of supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits that ensured even distribution of the benefits each month over a 28-day period.

The HHSC executive commissioner would have to adopt, modify, or repeal rules as appropriate by September 1, 2018, to implement the bill's provisions.

If, before implementing any provision of the bill, a state agency determined that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency was necessary, the affected agency would be required to request the waiver or authorization and could delay implementing that provision until the waiver or authorization was granted.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017, and would apply to the distribution of SNAP benefits on or after September 1, 2018.