

1-1 By: Parker S.B. No. 1404
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 1, 2023; March 16, 2023, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Business & Commerce;
 1-4 April 17, 2023, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0; April 17, 2023,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10			X	
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			

1-20 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1404 By: King

1-21 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-22 AN ACT

1-23 relating to the creation of a work group to study the benefits of
 1-24 coal-to-nuclear electric generating facility conversion.
 1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
 1-26 SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "work group" means the
 1-27 coal-to-nuclear conversion work group established under Section 2
 1-28 of this Act.
 1-29 SECTION 2. WORK GROUP FORMATION AND ADMINISTRATION. (a)
 1-30 The coal-to-nuclear conversion work group is established and
 1-31 composed of 16 members with:
 1-32 (1) one member of the senate appointed by the
 1-33 lieutenant governor;
 1-34 (2) one member of the house of representatives
 1-35 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
 1-36 (3) two members representing institutions of higher
 1-37 education appointed by the governor;
 1-38 (4) one ex officio member representing the Public
 1-39 Utility Commission of Texas appointed by the governor;
 1-40 (5) one ex officio member representing the independent
 1-41 organization certified under Section 39.151, Utilities Code, for
 1-42 the ERCOT power region appointed by the governor; and
 1-43 (6) 10 members of the public who have knowledge and
 1-44 experience in nuclear engineering, nuclear safety, energy policy,
 1-45 or economic analysis, and who are appointed as follows:
 1-46 (A) five members appointed by the speaker of the
 1-47 house of representatives; and
 1-48 (B) five members appointed by the lieutenant
 1-49 governor.
 1-50 (b) The governor shall designate a member of the work group
 1-51 appointed under Subsection (a)(3) of this section to serve as chair
 1-52 of the work group. The members of the work group appointed under
 1-53 Subsections (a)(1) and (2) of this section shall serve as co-vice
 1-54 chairs of the work group.
 1-55 (c) The work group shall meet at the call of its chair.
 1-56 (d) The work group may form committees for the efficient
 1-57 operation of the work group, at the discretion of the chair of the
 1-58 work group. The chair of the work group shall appoint the presiding
 1-59 officer of each committee. The presiding officer of a committee may
 1-60 invite other members of the work group to serve on the committee. A

2-1 committee may consult with subject matter experts.
2-2 (e) The work group may adopt rules, procedures, and policies
2-3 as necessary or convenient to administer this Act and fulfill the
2-4 responsibilities of the work group.

2-5 (f) A member of the work group may not receive compensation
2-6 for serving on the work group but is entitled to reimbursement for
2-7 expenses incurred by the member in the performance of official
2-8 duties as a member of the work group as provided by the General
2-9 Appropriations Act.

2-10 (g) The senate and the house of representatives shall
2-11 provide administrative support to the work group as necessary to
2-12 implement this Act.

2-13 SECTION 3. WORK GROUP DUTIES. (a) The work group shall:

2-14 (1) study the benefits of converting sites in this
2-15 state with coal-fired electric generating facilities to use nuclear
2-16 electric generating facilities instead; and

2-17 (2) develop a model plan for implementing
2-18 coal-to-nuclear conversion to provide affordable and sustainable
2-19 power in this state.

2-20 (b) In developing the model plan, the work group shall:

2-21 (1) conduct a comprehensive review of research and
2-22 information on coal-to-nuclear conversion and related issues;

2-23 (2) engage in stakeholder outreach to gather feedback
2-24 and input from the public, industry, state agencies, and relevant
2-25 organizations;

2-26 (3) identify the potential benefits of
2-27 coal-to-nuclear conversion, including cost-effectiveness, energy
2-28 security, and reduced environmental impact;

2-29 (4) assess the economic viability of coal-to-nuclear
2-30 conversion and provide recommendations on financing and
2-31 cost-effectiveness; and

2-32 (5) consider the regulatory framework and
2-33 requirements for coal-to-nuclear conversion and provide
2-34 recommendations for streamlining the conversion process.

2-35 (c) Not later than October 31, 2024, the work group shall
2-36 submit to each standing committee of the senate and house of
2-37 representatives with oversight jurisdiction over environmental
2-38 concerns or electric utilities a report that includes the model
2-39 plan developed under this section and any findings or
2-40 recommendations made by a committee formed under Section 2(d) of
2-41 this Act.

2-42 SECTION 4. APPOINTMENTS. As soon as practicable, but not
2-43 later than October 1, 2023, the governor, lieutenant governor, and
2-44 speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint the members
2-45 of the work group.

2-46 SECTION 5. INITIAL MEETING. Not later than November 1,
2-47 2023, the work group shall hold its initial meeting and select the
2-48 chair of the work group.

2-49 SECTION 6. EXPIRATION. This Act expires and the work group
2-50 is abolished June 30, 2025.

2-51 SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
2-52 1, 2023.

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