

By: Bhojani

H.B. No. 4443

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment by the Texas Workforce Commission of a pilot program to train workers for careers in energy-efficient technologies.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code is amended by adding Section 302.02015 to read as follows:

Sec. 302.02015. CAREERS IN ENERGY-EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES PILOT PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

(1) "Agency" means the Texas Education Agency.

(2) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(3) "Public junior college" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

(b) The commission, in consultation with the agency and the coordinating board, shall establish and administer a pilot program in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area under which the commission partners with public junior colleges and energy-efficient technology employers to provide necessary education and training to students for entry into jobs in industries using energy-efficient technologies.

(c) Subject to coordinating board approval, a public junior college participating in the program may offer dual credit courses to high school students or college-level courses to high school

graduates participating in the pilot program.

(d) The commission, in consultation with the agency and the coordinating board, shall establish:

(1) curriculum requirements for courses and training offered under the pilot program;

(2) eligibility criteria for a student or an energy-efficient technology employer to participate in the pilot program; and

(3) a certificate of completion the commission may award to a pilot program participant for the successful completion of a course of study and training in energy-efficient technologies under the pilot program.

(e) Under the pilot program, the commission shall ensure that the local workforce development board serving the workforce development area in which the pilot program is administered maintains the following information for each pilot program participant following program completion, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, income, and location:

(1) the evaluation data described by Section [302.082\(b\)](#); and

(2) data regarding the attainment of employment within the field of energy-efficient technologies.

(f) The commission, agency, and coordinating board may adopt rules as necessary for the administration of this section.

(g) Not later than December 1, 2030, the commission shall evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program at enhancing the entry rate of participants into careers in energy-efficient

1 technologies and report the results of the evaluation to the
2 legislature. The report must include the commission's
3 recommendation on whether the pilot program should be implemented
4 on a statewide basis.

5 (h) This section expires September 1, 2031.

6 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.