87R20639 MCF-D

By:  Thierry H.B. No. 1923

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 1923:

By:  Button C.S.H.B. No. 1923

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study and report by a public institution of higher education on local and state supply chain disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and ERCOT power outages.

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

SECTION 1.  DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1)  "COVID-19" means the 2019 novel coronavirus disease.

(2)  "ERCOT power outages" means the sustained power outages that occurred in February 2021 within the power region of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas as defined by Section 31.002, Utilities Code.

SECTION 2.  STUDY. (a) Using available appropriated funds, a public institution of higher education selected by the comptroller, in collaboration with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, shall conduct a study to identify and evaluate local and state supply chain disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and ERCOT power outages.

(b)  Not later than January 1, 2022, the comptroller shall select the public institution of higher education described by Subsection (a) of this section, based on proposals submitted in response to a request for proposals issued by the comptroller.

(c)  In conducting the study under this section, the public institution of higher education selected under Subsection (a) of this section shall:

(1)  assess the overall cost to this state of local and state supply chain disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and ERCOT power outages;

(2)  determine the number of jobs affected by local and state supply chain disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and ERCOT power outages;

(3)  determine the industries most affected by local and state supply chain disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and ERCOT power outages; and

(4)  recommend policies and procedures for maintaining effective supply chains in future health, power, and economic crises.

SECTION 3.  REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2022, the public institution of higher education selected by the comptroller under Section 2 of this Act shall prepare and submit to the governor and the legislature a report containing the results of the study conducted under Section 2 of this Act and any recommendations for legislative or other action to aid in this state's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the ERCOT power outages and prepare for future health, power, and economic crises.

SECTION 4.  EXPIRATION. This Act expires September 1, 2023.

SECTION 5.  EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.