By:  Hinojosa                                           H.B. No. 3894

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1                              AN ACT

2  relating to the creation by the Texas Workforce Commission of a

3  program to assist with transitioning certain workers to clean

4  energy jobs.

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

6          SECTION 1.  Subtitle B, Title 4, Labor Code, is amended by

7  adding Chapter 318 to read as follows:

8  CHAPTER 318.  TEXAS JUST TRANSITION SKILLS DEVELOPMENT WORKFORCE

9                             PROGRAM

10         Sec. 318.001.  DEFINITIONS.  In this chapter:

11              (1)  "Program" means the Texas Just Transition Skills

12 Development Workforce Program established under this chapter.

13              (2)  "Program commissioners" means the commissioners

14 of the governor's Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative and the Texas

15 Commission on Environmental Quality.

16              (3)  "Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative" means the joint

17 commission established by the governor consisting of commissioners

18 of the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Higher Education

19 Coordinating Board, and the Texas Workforce Commission.

20         Sec. 318.002.  TEXAS JUST TRANSITION SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

21 WORKFORCE PROGRAM.  (a)  The commission, in consultation with the

22 program commissioners, shall develop and administer the program

23 under which a network of participating frontline organizations

24 across this state provide direct and sustained support to prepare

1 members of economically disadvantaged communities, environmental

2 justice communities, communities of color, foster care

3 communities, and displaced fossil fuel workers for training and

4 entry into clean energy jobs in solar energy, wind energy, energy

5 efficiency, transportation electrification, and related

6 industries.

7     (b)  The program must:

8         (1)  leverage participating frontline organizations to

9 ensure members of disadvantaged communities and workers served

10 under the program have dedicated and sustained support and training

11 necessary for entry into clean energy jobs; and

12         (2)  facilitate the development of formal partnerships

13 between participating frontline organizations and trade groups,

14 labor unions, and clean energy employers to ensure members of

15 communities and workers served under the program have priority

16 access to pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and other employment

17 opportunities.

18     Sec. 318.003.  PROGRAM  NETWORK.  (a)  The program

19 administrator selected under Section 318.004 shall establish a

20 network of frontline organizations across this state to provide

21 direct and sustained support and training to members of communities

22 and workers served under the program.

23     (b)  Each frontline organization selected to participate in

24 the network must agree to:

25         (1)  provide:

26             (A)  community education and outreach about

27 workforce and training opportunities to ensure members of

communities and workers served under the program are aware of clean

energy workforce and training opportunities;

    (B) training,     pre-apprenticeship,

apprenticeship, and skill development, including soft skills, math

skills, technical skills, and other development needed for members

of communities and workers served under the program to enter clean

energy-related training and pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship

programs and career paths;

    (C) targeted outreach and recruitment to ensure

people of color are invited, supported, and given assistance with

applying for community-based and labor-based training

opportunities, including pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship

programs; and

    (D) direct assistance and counseling to program

participants in training and apprenticeships to help connect

participants to career options with renewable energy companies,

energy efficiency companies, and other clean energy employers and

to provide a direct resource for industries to identify qualified

workers to meet program hiring or subcontracting requirements;

   (2) develop partnerships with labor organizations to

ensure members of communities and workers served under the program

are recruited, placed, and supported in labor-based training

programs, such as workforce development programs and

pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs;

   (3) implement a stipend program for program

participants in clean energy-related training and apprenticeships

that includes funds to assist with participants' transportation or

1 child-care costs and costs for other needed services or supplies;

2 and

3           (4) engage in job placement activities, including

4 outreach to public agencies, utilities, and clean energy companies,

5 the creation of formal partnerships with employers, employment

6 interview preparation activities, and on-the-job support and

7 counseling.

8      Sec. 318.004. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR. (a) The program

9 commissioners shall select an individual or a community-based

10 organization to serve as program administrator to coordinate the

11 work of participating frontline organizations under the program to

12 ensure consistent execution, performance, partnerships, marketing,

13 and program access across this state.

14      (b) In selecting the program administrator, the program

15 commissioners shall:

16           (1) consult with representatives from communities and

17 workers served under the program; and

18           (2) ensure that the individual or organization

19 selected to serve as program administrator has strong capabilities

20 in program management and knowledge of industry trends and

21 activities, workforce development best practices, and community

22 development.

23      Sec. 318.005. CLEAN JOBS TRAINING CURRICULUM. (a) The

24 program commissioners shall create and adopt a training curriculum

25 designed to prepare workers to enter the clean energy field,

26 including solar energy, wind energy, energy efficiency,

27 electrification, site assessment, sales, and administration. The

1 training curriculum must include broad occupational training to

2 provide career entry into the general construction and building

3 trades sector.

4     (b) In creating the training curriculum, the program

5 commissioners shall consult and collaborate with:

6         (1) the Texas Workforce Investment Council;

7         (2) the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office;

8         (3) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;

9         (4) the Texas Education Agency;

10         (5) the Health and Human Services Commission;

11         (6) the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board;

12         (7) the Texas Juvenile Justice Department;

13         (8) the Texas Veterans Commission;

14         (9) the commission;

15         (10) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;

16         (11) the Railroad Commission of Texas;

17         (12) the State Energy Conservation Office;

18         (13) representatives of frontline organizations;

19         (14) workforce development providers;

20         (15) representatives of labor unions;

21         (16) representatives of building trades; and

22         (17) clean energy employers, including employers from

23 the solar energy, wind energy, energy efficiency, transportation

24 electrification, and infrastructure industries.

25     (c) A participating frontline organization that receives

26 funding to provide training under the program, including a

27 community-based or labor-based training provider, must use the

1  training curriculum developed under this section for the delivery

2  of that training.

3      Sec. 318.006.  RULES.  The commission shall adopt rules as

4  necessary for the administration of this chapter.

5      SECTION 2.  Not  later  than  November  1,  2021,  the

6  commissioners  of  the  Texas  Education  Agency,  the  Texas  Higher

7  Education Coordinating Board, the Texas Workforce Commission, and

8  the  Texas  Commission  on  Environmental  Quality  shall  select  a

9  program  administrator  as  required  under  Section  318.004,  Labor

10  Code, as added by this Act, for the Texas Just Transition Skills

11  Development Workforce Program created by this Act.

12      SECTION 3.  Not later than March 1, 2022, the Texas Workforce

13  Commission shall submit to the legislature a report reflecting the

14  training curriculum adopted under Section 318.005, Labor Code, as

15  added by this Act.

16      SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.