

By: Hinojosa

S.B. No. 955

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to economic development and workforce retraining opportunities in the transition to the use of clean energy sources.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 403, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 403.0285 to read as follows:

Sec. 403.0285. COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WORKFORCE RETRAINING IN CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION. (a) In this section, "committee" means the Committee on Economic Development and Workforce Retraining in the Clean Energy Transition.

(b) The governor shall appoint the Committee on Economic Development and Workforce Retraining in the Clean Energy Transition to assist the comptroller in identifying and evaluating economic development and workforce retraining opportunities with regard to the transition to clean energy sources.

(c) The committee is composed of not more than 21 members and shall include:

(1) representatives of environmental justice communities, environmental associations, and labor organizations;

(2) at least five representatives of industries that use large amounts of energy;

(3) representatives of the renewable energy industry, the oil and gas industry, including pipeline construction and operation and refineries, and clean energy developers; and

1 (4) at least one representative from each of the
2 following agencies:

3 (A) the comptroller of public accounts;

4 (B) the office of the governor;

5 (C) the Railroad Commission of Texas;

6 (D) the State Energy Conservation Office;

7 (E) the Texas Commission on Environmental
8 Quality;

9 (F) the Texas Department of Housing and Community
10 Affairs; and

11 (G) the Texas Workforce Commission.

12 (d) The governor shall solicit nominations for the
13 committee and select from among those nominated to the extent
14 possible in order to meet the requirements of Subsection (c).

15 (e) The committee shall advise the comptroller by
16 identifying:

17 (1) opportunities for workforce development and
18 training related to energy efficiency measures, renewable energy,
19 and other clean energy technologies, with specific focus on
20 training and workforce opportunities for individuals from
21 disadvantaged communities and other groups that may be
22 underrepresented in the workforce, including veterans, women, and
23 formerly incarcerated persons;

24 (2) industries that use large amounts of energy and
25 trades related to those industries;

26 (3) impacts of the transition to the use of clean
27 energy sources on each sector of the state's workforce and ways to

1 maximize the skills and expertise of workers throughout the
2 transition;

3 (4) sites of electric generating facilities that may
4 be closed as a result of the transition to the use of clean energy
5 sources and the issues and opportunities presented by reuse of
6 those sites;

7 (5) potential effects of state or federal greenhouse
8 gas emissions limits on state industries and local communities,
9 including the impact of any potential carbon reduction measures on
10 the competitiveness of state business and industry; and

11 (6) any other matters relevant to the workforce of the
12 state with regard to the transition to the use of clean energy
13 sources.

14 (f) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the
15 State Energy Conservation Office shall provide the committee with
16 facilities, data, and other assistance necessary for the committee
17 to carry out its duties under this section. A state agency or
18 political subdivision of this state shall provide the committee
19 with facilities, data, and other assistance as requested by the
20 committee to carry out its duties under this section.

21 (g) The committee may enter into an interagency agreement
22 with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Public
23 Utility Commission of Texas, the Railroad Commission of Texas, the
24 Texas Workforce Commission, or another state agency for technical
25 advice or assistance as necessary to complete the requirements of
26 this section.

27 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than December 1, 2022, the

1 comptroller, with the advice of the Committee on Economic
2 Development and Workforce Retraining in the Clean Energy
3 Transition, shall prepare a report on the effects and opportunities
4 of the transition to clean energy, including:

5 (1) issues and opportunities related to industries
6 that use large amounts of energy and trades associated with those
7 industries;

8 (2) clean energy workforce development for:

9 (A) workers in industries that may be negatively
10 affected by the transition to the use of clean energy sources; and

11 (B) disadvantaged communities and other segments
12 of the population that are underrepresented in the state's
13 workforce;

14 (3) measures to minimize the loss of jobs and industry
15 that would be associated with the imposition of any potential
16 greenhouse gas emissions reduction policies or other energy sector
17 mandates related to greenhouse gases;

18 (4) the number of jobs that have been created to
19 counter climate change, including in the energy, building,
20 transportation, and working lands sectors;

21 (5) the projection of the inventory of jobs needed and
22 the skills and training required to meet the demand of jobs to
23 counter climate change; and

24 (6) other issues related to workforce disruption due
25 to community transitions from an economy based on fossil fuels.

26 (b) The comptroller shall make the report described by
27 Subsection (a) of this section available to the public on the

1 comptroller's Internet website and deliver the report to:

- 2 (1) the governor;
- 3 (2) the lieutenant governor;
- 4 (3) the speaker of the house of representatives; and
- 5 (4) the chair and vice chair of the:
 - 6 (A) House Environmental Regulation Committee;
 - 7 (B) House State Affairs Committee;
 - 8 (C) Senate Natural Resources Committee; and
 - 9 (D) Senate Business and Commerce Committee.

10 (c) This section expires September 1, 2023.

11 SECTION 3. Not later than December 1, 2021, the governor
12 shall make the appointments to the Committee on Economic
13 Development and Workforce Retraining in the Clean Energy Transition
14 as required by Section 403.0285, Government Code, as added by this
15 Act.

16 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.