

By: Lopez of Cameron, et al.

H.B. No. 4734

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to a study evaluating this state's business advantages,  
3 economic climate, and workforce readiness, and a report on  
4 attracting offshore wind energy supply chain industries to this  
5 state.

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

7 SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "office" means the  
8 Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office within the office of  
9 the governor.

10 SECTION 2. STUDY AND REPORT ON OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY SUPPLY  
11 CHAIN COMPETITIVENESS. (a) The office, in collaboration with the  
12 Texas Workforce Commission, shall conduct a study and develop a  
13 report to identify and analyze this state's potential economic and  
14 workforce growth opportunities and challenges related to  
15 attracting offshore wind energy supply chain industries to this  
16 state. The report may include recommendations for further study,  
17 policies, or investments in aspects of the offshore wind energy  
18 supply chain.

19 (b) In preparing the study, the office may consider and  
20 identify:

21 (1) discrete segments within the offshore wind energy  
22 supply chain, including advanced manufacturing operations,  
23 specialty component manufacturing, seaport network infrastructure,  
24 shipbuilding, component assembly, transportation and distribution,

1 and ancillary services for future domestic offshore wind energy  
2 projects;

3 (2) the estimated number and type of current and  
4 potential offshore wind energy supply chain direct manufacturing  
5 jobs;

6 (3) potential industry growth and activity in this  
7 state's existing seaport network, advanced manufacturing, energy  
8 production and management, and information technology industries;

9 (4) the greatest impact investment opportunities to  
10 produce the largest net economic benefit, including identification  
11 of the geographic areas most likely to benefit or to be impacted by  
12 offshore wind energy supply chain industries in this state;

13 (5) potential benefits to local tax bases;

14 (6) expected additional contributions to state  
15 economic production;

16 (7) potential ancillary economic benefits; and

17 (8) any additional information the office identifies  
18 as relevant.

19 (c) In conducting the study and preparing the report, the  
20 office may:

21 (1) conduct an analysis of current resources in this  
22 state compared to the workforce education, training, development,  
23 and recruitment needed to offer a skilled workforce for employers  
24 in the offshore wind energy supply chain industry;

25 (2) evaluate the potential benefits of and  
26 opportunities to develop regional private sector partnerships with  
27 offshore wind energy supply chain industries to support workforce

1 development and training;

2 (3) explore opportunities for partnerships with  
3 neighboring states to undertake complementary actions, policies,  
4 and investments that will help achieve a domestic offshore wind  
5 energy supply chain and workforce;

6 (4) identify available funding, including resources  
7 from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L.  
8 No. 117-58) and Pub. L. No. 117-169, to support the recruitment and  
9 expansion of offshore wind energy supply chain industries to this  
10 state and related workforce development; and

11 (5) develop actionable recommendations this state  
12 should take to recruit new, and assist the expansion of existing,  
13 offshore wind energy supply chain industries.

14 (d) The office may, if necessary and as appropriate, partner  
15 with a nonprofit entity or institution of higher education, as  
16 defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, to conduct the study.

17 SECTION 3. REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. Not later than December  
18 1, 2024, the office shall submit a report to the governor, the  
19 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,  
20 and each member of the legislature that includes the results of the  
21 study and a report of recommendations for legislative or other  
22 action.

23 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. This Act expires September 1, 2025.

24 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
25 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
26 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
27 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for

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1 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.