

By: Lopez of Cameron, et al.

H.B. No. 4734

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study evaluating this state's business advantages,
economic climate, and workforce readiness, and a report on
attracting offshore wind energy supply chain industries to this
state.

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

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

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

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

(1) discrete segments within the offshore wind energy
supply chain, including advanced manufacturing operations,
specialty component manufacturing, seaport network infrastructure,
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.