

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a work group to study the benefits of coal-to-nuclear electric generating facility conversion.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "work group" means the coal-to-nuclear conversion work group established under Section 2 of this Act.

SECTION 2. WORK GROUP FORMATION AND ADMINISTRATION. (a) The coal-to-nuclear conversion work group is established and composed of 16 members with:

(1) one member of the senate appointed by the lieutenant governor;

(2) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(3) two members representing institutions of higher education appointed by the governor;

(4) one ex officio member representing the Public Utility Commission of Texas appointed by the governor;

(5) one ex officio member representing the independent organization certified under Section 39.151, Utilities Code, for the ERCOT power region appointed by the governor; and

(6) 10 members of the public who have knowledge and experience in nuclear engineering, nuclear safety, energy policy, or economic analysis, and who are appointed as follows:

1 (A) five members appointed by the speaker of the  
2 house of representatives; and

3 (B) five members appointed by the lieutenant  
4 governor.

5 (b) The work group members described by Subsections (a)(1)  
6 and (2) of this section serve as co-chairs of the work group.

7 (c) The work group shall meet at the call of its co-chairs.

8 (d) The work group may form committees for the efficient  
9 operation of the work group, at the discretion of the co-chairs of  
10 the work group. The co-chairs of the work group shall appoint the  
11 presiding officer of each committee. The presiding officer of a  
12 committee may invite other members of the work group to serve on the  
13 committee. A committee may consult with subject matter experts.

14 (e) The work group may adopt rules, procedures, and policies  
15 as necessary or convenient to administer this Act and fulfill the  
16 responsibilities of the work group.

17 (f) A member of the work group may not receive compensation  
18 for serving on the work group but is entitled to reimbursement for  
19 expenses incurred by the member in the performance of official  
20 duties as a member of the work group as provided by the General  
21 Appropriations Act.

22 (g) The senate and the house of representatives shall  
23 provide administrative support to the work group as necessary to  
24 implement this Act.

25 SECTION 3. WORK GROUP DUTIES. (a) The work group shall:

26 (1) study the benefits of converting sites in this  
27 state with coal-fired electric generating facilities to use nuclear

1 electric generating facilities instead; and

2           (2) develop a model plan for implementing  
3 coal-to-nuclear conversion to provide affordable and sustainable  
4 power in this state.

5           (b) In developing the model plan, the work group shall:

6           (1) conduct a comprehensive review of research and  
7 information on coal-to-nuclear conversion and related issues;

8           (2) engage in stakeholder outreach to gather feedback  
9 and input from the public, industry, state agencies, and relevant  
10 organizations;

11           (3) identify the potential benefits of  
12 coal-to-nuclear conversion, including cost-effectiveness, energy  
13 security, and reduced environmental impact;

14           (4) assess the economic viability of coal-to-nuclear  
15 conversion and provide recommendations on financing and  
16 cost-effectiveness; and

17           (5) consider the regulatory framework and  
18 requirements for coal-to-nuclear conversion and provide  
19 recommendations for streamlining the conversion process.

20           (c) Not later than October 31, 2024, the work group shall  
21 submit to each standing committee of the senate and house of  
22 representatives with oversight jurisdiction over environmental  
23 concerns or electric utilities a report that includes the model  
24 plan developed under this section and any findings or  
25 recommendations made by a committee formed under Section 2(d) of  
26 this Act.

27           SECTION 4. APPOINTMENTS. As soon as practicable, but not

1 later than October 1, 2023, the governor, lieutenant governor, and  
2 speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint the members  
3 of the work group.

4 SECTION 5. INITIAL MEETING. Not later than November 1,  
5 2023, the work group shall hold its initial meeting at the call of  
6 the co-chairs of the work group.

7 SECTION 6. EXPIRATION. This Act expires and the work group  
8 is abolished June 30, 2025.

9 SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September  
10 1, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1404 passed the Senate on April 25, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 1; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 27, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1404 passed the House, with amendment, on May 24, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 134, Nays 4, one present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor