

By: Parker, et al.
(Smithee)

S.B. No. 1404

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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 governor shall designate members of the work group
6 appointed under Subsection (a)(1) and Subsection (a)(2) of this
7 section to serve as chair and vice chair of the work group.

8 (c) The work group shall meet at the call of its chair.

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

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

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

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

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

27 (1) study the benefits of converting sites in this

1 state with coal-fired electric generating facilities to use nuclear
2 electric generating facilities instead; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 SECTION 4. APPOINTMENTS. As soon as practicable, but not
2 later than October 1, 2023, the governor, lieutenant governor, and
3 speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint the members
4 of the work group.

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

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

10 SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
11 1, 2023.