

By: Parker

S.B. No. 1404

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the creation of a work group to study the benefits of
3 coal-to-nuclear electric generating facility conversion.

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

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

8 SECTION 2. WORK GROUP FORMATION AND ADMINISTRATION. (a)
9 The coal-to-nuclear conversion work group is established and
10 composed of 10 members with:

11 (1) five members appointed by the speaker of the house
12 of representatives; and

13 (2) five members appointed by the lieutenant governor.

14 (b) Individuals appointed to the work group under
15 Subsection (a) of this section must have knowledge and experience
16 in nuclear engineering, nuclear safety, energy policy, or economic
17 analysis.

18 (c) The work group shall select a member of the work group to
19 serve as the work group's presiding officer.

20 (d) The work group shall meet at the call of its presiding
21 officer.

22 (e) The work group may form committees for the efficient
23 operation of the work group, at the discretion of the presiding
24 officer of the work group. The presiding officer of the work group

1 shall appoint the presiding officer of each committee group. The
2 presiding officer of a committee may invite other members of the
3 work group to serve on the committee. A committee may consult with
4 subject matter experts.

5 (f) The work group may adopt rules, procedures, and policies
6 as necessary or convenient to administer this Act and fulfill the
7 responsibilities of the work group.

8 (g) A member of the work group may not receive compensation
9 for serving on the work group but is entitled to reimbursement for
10 expenses incurred by the member in the performance of official
11 duties as a member of the work group as provided by the General
12 Appropriations Act.

13 (h) The senate and the house of representatives shall
14 provide administrative support to the work group as necessary to
15 implement this Act.

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

17 (1) study the benefits of converting sites in this
18 state with coal-fired electric generating facilities to use nuclear
19 electric generating facilities instead; and

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

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

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

26 (2) engage in stakeholder outreach to gather feedback
27 and input from the public, industry, state agencies, and relevant

1 organizations;

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

5 (4) assess the economic viability of coal-to-nuclear
6 conversion and provide recommendations on financing and
7 cost-effectiveness; and

8 (5) consider the regulatory framework and
9 requirements for coal-to-nuclear conversion and provide
10 recommendations for streamlining the conversion process.

11 (c) Not later than October 31, 2024, the work group shall
12 submit to each standing committee of the senate and house of
13 representatives with oversight jurisdiction over environmental
14 concerns or electric utilities a report that includes the model
15 plan developed under this section and any findings or
16 recommendations made by a committee formed under Section 2(e) of
17 this Act.

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

22 SECTION 5. INITIAL MEETING. Not later than November 1,
23 2023, the work group shall hold its initial meeting and select the
24 presiding officer of the work group.

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

27 SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September

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1 1, 2023.