

By: Darby

H.B. No. 2678

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Texas Advanced Nuclear Energy Authority and a Texas nuclear permitting officer.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 481, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter HH to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER HH. TEXAS ADVANCED NUCLEAR ENERGY AUTHORITY

Sec. 481.701. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Authority" means the Texas Advanced Nuclear Energy Authority.

(2) "Executive committee" means the executive committee of the authority.

(3) "Fund" means the Texas Advanced Nuclear Innovation Fund.

(4) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

Sec. 481.702. ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSES. (a) The Texas Advanced Nuclear Energy Authority is established to strengthen and grow the nuclear industry in this state and to enable and accelerate the integration of advanced nuclear technology into the economy of this state.

(b) The purposes of the authority are to:

(1) leverage the expertise and capacity of institutions of higher education, industry, and regulatory

1 stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to ensure  
2 the development of advanced nuclear energy and technologies in this  
3 state;

4 (2) identify obstacles and provide recommendations to  
5 the governor and legislature regarding advanced nuclear energy and  
6 technologies;

7 (3) provide strategic leadership within the advanced  
8 nuclear reactor system in this state;

9 (4) manage advanced nuclear energy and technology  
10 projects with a goal of interconnection of clean, dispatchable  
11 nuclear power from advanced nuclear reactors to the power grid of  
12 this state by 2035;

13 (5) support existing advanced nuclear energy  
14 industries in this state and attract new advanced nuclear energy  
15 industry projects and partners to this state;

16 (6) support the development of an advanced nuclear  
17 energy supply chain in this state; and

18 (7) implement and build on the policy recommendations  
19 of the Texas Advanced Nuclear Reactor Working Group.

20 Sec. 481.703. ADMINISTRATIVE ATTACHMENT. (a) The  
21 authority is administratively attached to the office of the  
22 governor.

23 (b) The office shall provide the staff and facilities  
24 necessary to assist the authority in performing the authority's  
25 duties under this subchapter.

26 Sec. 481.704. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMPOSITION. (a) The  
27 authority is governed by an executive committee composed of the

1 following members:

2 (1) three members appointed by the governor;

3 (2) two members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

4 (3) two members appointed by the speaker of the house  
5 of representatives;

6 (4) the chancellor of The Texas A&M University System  
7 or the chancellor's designee;

8 (5) the chancellor of The University of Texas System  
9 or the chancellor's designee;

10 (6) the president of Abilene Christian University or  
11 the president's designee; and

12 (7) one nonvoting student ambassador appointed by the  
13 members described by Subdivisions (4), (5), and (6).

14 (b) In making appointments under Subsection (a), priority  
15 shall be given to individuals with experience in advanced nuclear  
16 energy research, technologies, and production.

17 (c) In making appointments under Subsection (a), the  
18 governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of  
19 representatives shall coordinate to ensure that at least two  
20 representatives from the advanced nuclear energy industry with an  
21 established presence in this state are appointed to the executive  
22 committee.

23 Sec. 481.705. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. (a) The executive  
24 committee shall hire an executive director. The executive director  
25 shall perform the duties required by this subchapter and any duty  
26 delegated by the committee.

27 (b) The executive director must have a demonstrated ability

1 to lead and develop academic, commercial, military, or governmental  
2 partnerships and coalitions.

3 (c) The executive director may hire staff as necessary to  
4 implement the duties of the authority under this subchapter.

5 Sec. 481.706. DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The executive  
6 committee shall:

7 (1) develop and execute a comprehensive statewide  
8 strategic plan to further the objectives of the authority as  
9 established under Section 481.702;

10 (2) solicit recommendations from stakeholders on  
11 funding and research opportunities related to advanced nuclear  
12 energy research, technologies, and production;

13 (3) appoint and determine the salary for a nuclear  
14 permitting officer as required by Section 481.707;

15 (4) administer any funds created by the legislature,  
16 including under Section 481.709, to support advanced nuclear  
17 capital projects, supply chain development, and other initiatives;  
18 and

19 (5) prepare and submit the report required by Section  
20 481.708.

21 Sec. 481.707. NUCLEAR PERMITTING OFFICER. (a) The  
22 executive committee shall appoint a nuclear permitting officer.

23 (b) The nuclear permitting officer must have a demonstrated  
24 familiarity with the permitting and regulatory process in this  
25 state and a developed network of contacts within the government of  
26 this state for the purposes of assisting businesses throughout the  
27 permitting and regulatory process.

1        (c) The nuclear permitting officer shall:

2            (1) act as a single point of contact for stakeholders  
3 during the nuclear energy permitting process;

4            (2) identify active or likely siting opportunities and  
5 required permits and approvals for nuclear energy sites and key  
6 personnel;

7            (3) provide tailored assistance to help industry  
8 navigate relevant local, state, and federal regulations and  
9 regulatory entities for nuclear facilities; and

10           (4) share information regarding this state's economic  
11 incentive programs for nuclear energy research and production.

12        (d) The nuclear permitting officer may enter into  
13 agreements with the office of the governor for staff support  
14 services to facilitate the work of the authority.

15        Sec. 481.708. BIENNIAL REPORT. Not later than December 1 of  
16 each even-numbered year, the executive committee shall prepare and  
17 submit to the governor and the Legislative Budget Board a written  
18 report that outlines:

19           (1) activities undertaken to meet the purposes of the  
20 authority under Section 481.702;

21           (2) a summary of the funding and research  
22 opportunities identified under Section 481.706;

23           (3) any legislative recommendations to further the  
24 purposes of the authority;

25           (4) any prospective grants or funding the authority  
26 members expect to apply for or receive; and

27           (5) any research accomplishments associated with the

1 authority.

2 Sec. 481.709. TEXAS ADVANCED NUCLEAR INNOVATION FUND. (a)  
3 The Texas Advanced Nuclear Innovation Fund is created as a  
4 dedicated account within the general revenue fund. The fund  
5 consists of:

6 (1) gifts, grants, or donations to the fund; and  
7 (2) money from any other source designated by the  
8 legislature.

9 (b) Money in the fund may be used to:

10 (1) provide matching funding to state entities,  
11 including institutions of higher education, for advanced nuclear  
12 research and development projects;

13 (2) award grants to business entities with an  
14 established presence in this state to encourage economic  
15 development related to advanced nuclear energy research,  
16 technologies, and production; and

17 (3) subject to Subsection (c), pay for staff support  
18 services described by Section 481.707(d).

19 (c) The authority shall request from the Legislative Budget  
20 Board approval to use money in the fund for the purpose described by  
21 Subsection (b)(3). A request under this subsection shall be  
22 considered approved on the 30th day after receipt by the  
23 Legislative Budget Board unless expressly disapproved.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.