

By: Guerra

H.B. No. 3125

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishment by the Texas Workforce Commission of a geothermal energy workforce education and training initiative.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code, is amended by adding Section 302.0085 to read as follows:

Sec. 302.0085. GEOTHERMAL ENERGY WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING INITIATIVE. (a) In this section:

(1) "Career school or college" has the meaning assigned by Section 132.001, Education Code.

(2) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(3) "General academic teaching institution," "institution of higher education," "public technical institute," and "public junior college" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

(4) "Initiative" means the geothermal energy workforce education and training initiative established under this section.

(b) The commission, in consultation with the coordinating board, by rule, shall establish and administer an initiative to develop and implement:

(1) customized education and training programs necessary to prepare students for entry into jobs in the geothermal

1 energy industry in this state; and

2 (2) other strategies to support and incentivize
3 education and training opportunities that address skills gaps in
4 the geothermal energy workforce in this state.

5 (c) Under the initiative, the commission shall:

6 (1) in consultation with representatives from the
7 coordinating board, general academic teaching institutions, public
8 technical institutes, public junior colleges, career schools or
9 colleges, and employers in the geothermal energy industry, develop
10 customized curriculum requirements for:

11 (A) degree or certificate programs to prepare
12 students for jobs in the geothermal energy industry that, subject
13 to coordinating board approval under Section 61.0512, Education
14 Code, may be offered by institutions of higher education; and

15 (B) other programs of instruction leading to
16 recognized educational credentials to prepare students for jobs in
17 the geothermal energy industry that may be offered by career
18 schools or colleges;

19 (2) identify opportunities to use workforce
20 development funding administered by the commission to provide
21 financial assistance for geothermal energy workforce training
22 programs, subject to any requirements for or restrictions on the
23 distribution of those funds; and

24 (3) promote and support the creation of partnerships
25 between institutions of higher education and geothermal energy
26 industry employers in this state under which apprenticeship and
27 employment opportunities in the geothermal energy industry are made

1 available to students and graduates of the institutions, as
2 applicable.

3 (d) Not later than September 1 of each year, the commission,
4 in consultation with the coordinating board, shall prepare and
5 submit to each standing committee of the legislature with primary
6 jurisdiction over workforce development, higher education, or
7 energy industry matters a report summarizing the commission's
8 activities under the initiative. The report may include the
9 commission's recommendations for legislative or other action.

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