

By: Zaffirini, Parker

S.B. No. 1535

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment by the Texas Workforce Commission of an advanced nuclear energy workforce development program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code, is amended by adding Section 302.0081 to read as follows:

Sec. 302.0081. ADVANCED NUCLEAR ENERGY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

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

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

(3) "Program" means the advanced nuclear energy workforce development program established under this section.

(b) The commission, in collaboration with the coordinating board and in consultation with representatives designated by the Public Utility Commission of Texas to coordinate this state's nuclear energy strategies, by rule shall establish and administer the advanced nuclear energy workforce development program under this section for the purpose of addressing urgent skilled labor demands in the advanced nuclear energy industry in this state.

(c) Under the program, the commission shall:

1           (1) create a strategic plan for:

2                   (A) addressing labor supply gaps and talent  
3 retention issues in the advanced nuclear energy industry; and

4                   (B) providing financial assistance, including  
5 through the creation of strategic partnerships among public and  
6 private entities and advanced nuclear energy industry  
7 stakeholders, to incentivize and support:

8                           (i) the creation by institutions of higher  
9 education of education and training programs in the field of  
10 advanced nuclear energy; and

11                           (ii) research and leadership development in  
12 the field of advanced nuclear energy at general academic teaching  
13 institutions; and

14           (2) develop customized curriculum requirements for  
15 degree and certificate programs to prepare students for high-wage  
16 jobs in the advanced nuclear energy industry that, subject to  
17 coordinating board approval under Section 61.0512, Education Code,  
18 may be offered by an institution of higher education.

19           (d) In developing curriculum requirements under Subsection  
20 (c)(2), the commission shall:

21                   (1) consult with:

22                           (A) representatives of the coordinating board,  
23 general academic teaching institutions, public technical  
24 institutes, and public junior colleges;

25                           (B) the designated representatives of the Public  
26 Utility Commission of Texas described by Subsection (b); and

27                           (C) employers in the advanced nuclear energy

1 industry; and

2 (2) focus on developing curricula for programs leading  
3 to high-wage jobs in the areas of:

4 (A) nuclear-grade welding;

5 (B) radiological control and monitoring;

6 (C) reactor operations;

7 (D) nuclear instrumentation and control; and

8 (E) nuclear, electrical, chemical, civil, and  
9 environmental engineering.

10 (e) Not later than September 1 of each year, the commission,  
11 in consultation with the coordinating board, shall prepare and  
12 submit to each standing committee of the legislature with primary  
13 jurisdiction over workforce development, higher education, or  
14 energy industry matters, a report summarizing the commission's  
15 activities under the program. The report may include the  
16 commission's recommendations for legislative or other action.

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