

By: Campbell

S.B. No. 1631

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 Railroad 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;

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; and

19 (3) implement strategies to:

20 (A) educate students and other individuals
21 seeking employment in the advanced nuclear energy industry in this
22 state regarding education and training requirements for jobs in the
23 industry; and

24 (B) connect students and other individuals
25 seeking employment in the advanced nuclear energy industry in this
26 state with industry employers and employment opportunities.

27 (d) In developing curriculum requirements under Subsection

1 (c)(2), the commission shall:

2 (1) consult with:

3 (A) representatives of the coordinating board,
4 general academic teaching institutions, public technical
5 institutes, and public junior colleges;

6 (B) the designated representatives of the
7 Railroad Commission of Texas described by Subsection (b); and

8 (C) employers in the advanced nuclear energy
9 industry; and

10 (2) focus on developing curriculum for programs
11 leading to high-wage jobs in the areas of:

12 (A) nuclear-grade welding;

13 (B) radiological control and monitoring;

14 (C) reactor operations;

15 (D) nuclear instrumentation and control; and

16 (E) nuclear, electrical, chemical, civil, and
17 environmental engineering.

18 (e) Not later than September 1 of each year, the commission,
19 in consultation with the coordinating board, shall prepare and
20 submit to each standing committee of the legislature with primary
21 jurisdiction over workforce development, higher education, or
22 energy industry matters, a report summarizing the commission's
23 activities under the program. The report may include the
24 commission's recommendations for legislative or other action.

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