By: Salinas H.B. No. 993

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

energy industry in this state; and

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

(c) Under the initiative, the commission shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2027.