

- SUBJECT:** Conducting a study on attracting offshore wind energy industries
- COMMITTEE:** International Relations & Economic Development — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Button, Ordaz, Clardy, Hayes, Meza, C. Morales, Shine
1 nay — Bumgarner
1 absent — Plesa
- WITNESSES:** For — Luke Metzger, Environment Texas; Matt Sellers, Kiewit Energy Group; Zachary Bartscherer, The Pew Charitable Trusts; Maria Chea, Wood Group (*Registered, but did not testify*: Judd Messer, Advanced Power Alliance; Shannon Ratliff, Invenergy; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; Annie Spilman, NFIB; Chad Wilbanks, Pew Trusts; Thalia Kruger, Principle Power; Adrian Shelley, Public Citizen; Lisa Hughes, RWE Clean Energy, LLC; Matt Boms, Texas Advanced Energy Business Alliance; Jerry Patterson)
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested conducting a study on attracting offshore wind energy supply chain industries to Texas would help provide better understanding of the potential economic impacts of investing in the industry.
- DIGEST:** HB 4734 would require the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office in collaboration with the Texas Workforce Commission to conduct a study and develop a report to identify and analyze this state's potential economic and workforce growth opportunities and challenges related to attracting offshore wind energy supply chain industries to Texas. The report could include recommendations for further study, policies, or investments regarding offshore wind energy supply chain.

In preparing the study, the office could consider and identify certain

economic and industry related impacts and factors. In conducting the study and preparing the report, the office could analyze current resources and needs to offer a skilled workforce for the industry, evaluate potential benefits of private sector partnerships for workforce development and training, explore opportunities for partnerships with neighboring states, identify available funding, and develop actionable recommendations for recruiting and expanding offshore wind energy supply chain industries.

The office could partner with a nonprofit entity or institution of higher education to conduct the study.

By December 1, 2024, the office would be required to submit a report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the House, and each member of the Legislature that included the results of the study and a report of recommendations for legislative and other action.

The bill would expire September 1, 2025.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023.