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HOUSE COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE MEMORIAL 56

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

 A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE SOUTH CENTRAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

CONVENE A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS ALONG THE

STATE'S BORDER WITH MEXICO TO STUDY THE BORDER DEVELOPMENT ACT

AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION THAT UPDATES THE

BORDER DEVELOPMENT ACT TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND OVERSIGHT.

WHEREAS, the Border Development Act was enacted in 1991, establishing the border authority to "encourage and foster development of the state, its cities and counties by developing port facilities at international ports of entry"; and

WHEREAS, the Border Development Act has not been amended since 2011; and

WHEREAS, since then, the United States economy has experienced development due to geopolitical shifts, global supply chain resets, climate change and a rapidly emerging .228290.2

l electric vehicle industry; and

WHEREAS, the border authority is currently administratively attached to the economic development department; and

WHEREAS, the Border Development Act does not specify professional requirements for border authority membership, which may result in limited knowledge and skill sets in this niche area of government; and

WHEREAS, the composition of the border authority should be amended to be more inclusive of both the executive and legislative branches; and

WHEREAS, the border authority only reports to the New Mexico finance authority oversight committee regarding general border activities and annual budget requests; and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the border authority to report to other committees, such as the legislative finance committee; and

WHEREAS, reporting requirements for state agencies provide oversight and transparency to the legislature and the public; and

WHEREAS, the border authority is not authorized by statute to promulgate rules; and

WHEREAS, the Border Development Act should be amended to address these issues and to reflect the current needs of the border authority;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the south central council of governments be requested to convene a series of meetings with state and local stakeholders along the state's border with Mexico to study the Border Development Act and make recommendations for legislation that updates the Border Development Act to increase transparency and accountability and to inform the state of the value of the border authority in overseeing economic and other growth along the border; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that input received from the stakeholders during the study inform the proposed legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study review the current composition of the members of the border authority to consider including members from the legislature who will work with the governor's appointees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this proposed legislation be presented to the appropriate interim committees dealing with economic development and infrastructure during the 2024 interim; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the executive director of the south central council of governments.

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