HOUSE MEMORIAL 56

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES CONVENE
A MEETING WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES ALONG THE STATE'S
BORDER WITH MEXICO TO STUDY THE BORDER DEVELOPMENT ACT AND TO
DRAFT 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

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1   electric vehicle industry; and

2   WHEREAS, the border authority is currently

3   administratively attached to the economic development

4   department; and

5   WHEREAS, administrative attachment to the economic

6   development department may not provide the growth and

7   visibility of this important initiative; and

8   WHEREAS, the Border Development Act does not specify

9   professional requirements for border authority membership,

10   which may result in limited knowledge and skill sets in this

11   niche area of government; and

12   WHEREAS, the composition of the border authority should be

13   amended to be more inclusive of both the executive and

14   legislative branches; and

15   WHEREAS, the border authority only reports to the New

16   Mexico finance authority oversight committee regarding general

17   border activities and annual budget requests; and

18   WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the border authority

19   to report to other committees, such as the legislative finance

20   committee; and

21   WHEREAS, reporting requirements for state agencies provide

22   oversight and transparency to the legislature and the public;

23   and

24   WHEREAS, the border authority is not authorized by statute

25   to promulgate rules; and

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1   WHEREAS, the Border Development Act should be amended to

2   address these issues and to reflect the current needs of the

3   border authority;

4   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

5   REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico

6   association of counties be requested to convene a meeting of

7   counties and municipalities along the state's border with

8   Mexico to study the Border Development Act, to draft

9   legislation that updates the Border Development Act to increase

10 transparency and accountability and to inform the state of the

11 value of the border authority in overseeing economic and other

12 growth along the border; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Border Development Act be

14 updated through this proposed legislation to reflect the new

15 economic circumstances of the authority; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this proposed legislation

17 amend the composition of members of the border authority to

18 include members from the legislature who will work with the

19 governor's appointees; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the border authority regularly

21 update its website and information about membership, projects,

22 contracts, memoranda of agreement and discussions between the

23 United States and Mexico, as appropriate; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this proposed legislation be

25 presented to the appropriate interim committees dealing with

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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 New Mexico

association of counties.

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