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HOUSE BILL 740

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

AN ACT

**RELATING TO RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO;
ESTABLISHING THE MEXICAN AFFAIRS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE;
PROVIDING DUTIES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**Section 1. MEXICAN AFFAIRS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CREATED--
TERMINATION.--There is created a joint interim legislative
committee that shall be known as the "Mexican affairs
oversight committee". The committee shall function from the
date of its appointment until the first day of December prior
to the first session of the forty-ninth legislature.**

Section 2. MEMBERSHIP--APPOINTMENT--VACANCIES.--

**A. The Mexican affairs oversight committee shall
be composed of ten members. Five members of the house of
representatives shall be appointed by the speaker of the house**

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1 of representatives. Five members of the senate shall be
2 appointed by the senate committees' committee or, if the
3 senate appointments are made in the interim, by the president
4 pro tempore of the senate after consultation with and
5 agreement of a majority of the members of the senate
6 committees' committee.

7 B. Members shall be appointed from each house so
8 as to give the two major political parties in each house the
9 same equal representation on the Mexican affairs oversight
10 committee as prevails in each house. However, in no event
11 shall either party have less than one member from each house
12 on the committee. The speaker of the house of representatives
13 and the president pro tempore of the senate shall each appoint
14 a co-chairman of the committee.

15 C. A vacancy on the Mexican affairs oversight
16 committee shall be filled by appointment in the same manner as
17 the original appointment.

18 D. No action shall be taken by the Mexican affairs
19 oversight committee if a majority of the total membership from
20 either house on the committee rejects the action.

21 Section 3. DUTIES--SUBPOENA POWER--COOPERATION.--

22 A. After its appointment, the Mexican affairs
23 oversight committee shall hold one organizational meeting to
24 develop a work plan and budget for the ensuing interim. The
25 work plan and budget shall be submitted to the New Mexico

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1 legislative council for approval.

2 B. Upon approval of the work plan and budget by
3 the New Mexico legislative council, the Mexican affairs
4 oversight committee shall:

5 (1) oversee all aspects of the state's
6 relations with the Republic of Mexico and the state of
7 Chihuahua;

8 (2) hold hearings to ensure that all
9 activities of the New Mexico border commission, the border
10 authority, the joint border research institute at New Mexico
11 state university, the economic development department, the
12 tourism department and other agencies that pertain to the
13 Republic of Mexico and the state of Chihuahua are conducted in
14 such a manner that economic, political, cultural and
15 infrastructure issues are coordinated;

16 (3) establish relations with legislative
17 agencies and committees in the state of Chihuahua in order to
18 identify and resolve common issues; and

19 (4) recommend legislation or changes, if they
20 are found to be necessary, to the legislature.

21 C. The New Mexico border commission, the border
22 authority, the joint border research institute at New Mexico
23 state university, the economic development department, the
24 tourism department and every other state agency and political
25 subdivision of the state shall, upon request, furnish and make

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1 available to the Mexican affairs oversight committee
2 documents, material or information requested by the members of
3 the committee or its staff.

4 Section 4. SUBCOMMITTEES. --

5 A. Subcommittees shall be created only by majority
6 vote of all members appointed to the Mexican affairs oversight
7 committee and with the prior approval of the New Mexico
8 legislative council. A subcommittee shall be composed of at
9 least one member from the senate and one member from the house
10 of representatives, and at least one member of the minority
11 party shall be a member of the subcommittee.

12 B. All meetings and expenditures of a subcommittee
13 shall be approved by the full Mexican affairs oversight
14 committee in advance of subcommittee meetings or expenditures,
15 and the approval shall be shown in the minutes of the
16 committee.

17 Section 5. REPORT. -- By December 15 of each year, the
18 Mexican affairs oversight committee shall make a report of its
19 findings and recommendations for the consideration of the
20 legislature.

21 Section 6. STAFF. -- The staff for the Mexican affairs
22 oversight committee shall be provided by the legislative
23 council service. The legislative council service may also
24 contract for staff services for the Mexican affairs oversight
25 committee.

