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HOUSE BILL 107

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

FOR THE NEW MEXICO FINANCE AUTHORITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

AN ACT

**RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS; CREATING THE OFFICE OF
MEXICAN AFFAIRS; CREATING A LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE;
PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

Section 1. OFFICE OF MEXICAN AFFAIRS--CREATED--

ADMINISTRATIVE ATTACHMENT--POWERS AND DUTIES.--

**A. The "office of Mexican affairs" is created in
the office of the governor.**

**B. The head of the office of Mexican affairs is
the "Mexican affairs officer". He shall be appointed by the
governor with the consent of the senate. The Mexican affairs
officer shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.**

**C. Within available appropriations, the Mexican
affairs officer may appoint such other professional, technical**

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1 and clerical assistants as necessary to carry out the duties
2 of the office.

3 D. The office of Mexican affairs, under the
4 direction of the governor, is primarily responsible for
5 conducting the state's relations with the Republic of Mexico
6 and the state of Chihuahua. To the extent allowed by law and
7 necessary to ensure that common economic, political, cultural,
8 health and safety and infrastructure issues with the Republic
9 of Mexico and the state of Chihuahua are coordinated, the
10 office shall direct or oversee the activities of the economic
11 development department, the tourism department, the office of
12 cultural affairs, the state highway and transportation
13 department, the department of health, the department of
14 environment, the department of public safety, the New Mexico
15 border commission, the border authority and the joint border
16 research institute at New Mexico state university as those
17 activities relate to improving New Mexico-Mexico relations and
18 trade and encouraging or funding appropriate border
19 development.

20 Section 2. MEXICAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE--CREATED--
21 TERMINATION.--The "Mexican affairs committee" is created as a
22 joint interim legislative committee. The committee shall
23 function from the date of its appointment until the first day
24 of December prior to the first session of the forty-seventh
25 legislature.

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1 Section 3. MEXICAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP--
2 APPOINTMENT-- VACANCIES. --

3 A. The Mexican affairs committee shall be composed
4 of ten members. Five members of the house of representatives
5 shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of
6 representatives and five members of the senate shall be
7 appointed by the senate committees' committee or, if the
8 senate appointments are made in the interim, by the president
9 pro tempore of the senate after consultation with and
10 agreement of a majority of the members of the senate
11 committees' committee. The speaker of the house and the
12 president pro tempore shall each designate a co-chairman of
13 the committee.

14 B. Members shall be appointed from each house so
15 as to give the two major political parties in each house the
16 same proportionate representation on the committee as prevails
17 in each house; provided, however, that in no event shall
18 either party have fewer than one member from that house on the
19 committee.

20 C. A vacancy on the Mexican affairs committee
21 shall be filled by appointment in the same manner as the
22 original appointment.

23 D. No action shall be taken by the committee if a
24 majority of the total membership from either house on the
25 committee rejects the action.

1 Section 4. DUTIES-- COOPERATION. --

2 A. After its appointment, the Mexican affairs
3 committee shall hold one organizational meeting to develop a
4 work plan and budget for the ensuing interim. The work plan
5 and budget shall be submitted to the New Mexico legislative
6 council for approval.

7 B. Upon approval of its work plan and budget, the
8 committee shall:

9 (1) oversee the state's relations with the
10 Republic of Mexico and the state of Chihuahua;

11 (2) hold hearings to ascertain whether state
12 agencies and institutions are coordinating their efforts to
13 improve New Mexico-Mexico relations, trade and sociocultural
14 exchanges and to improve border development, including
15 improving the region's economy, environment, education and
16 health and safety; and to evaluate potential legislation,
17 including requests for funding, that relate to border
18 development or the improvement of New Mexico-Mexico relations,
19 trade and sociocultural exchanges;

20 (3) establish relations with legislative
21 agencies and committees in the state of Chihuahua to identify
22 and resolve common problems; and

23 (4) recommend legislation to the legislature.

24 C. State agencies and institutions, the border
25 authority, the joint border research institute at New Mexico

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1 state university and local governments shall assist the
2 committee as requested.

3 Section 5. SUBCOMMITTEES. --

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

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

15 Section 6. REPORT. -- By December 15 of each year, the
16 Mexican affairs committee shall make a report of its findings
17 and recommendations for the consideration of the legislature.

18 Section 7. STAFF. -- The staff of the Mexican affairs
19 committee shall be provided by the legislative council
20 service. The legislative council service may contract for
21 services for the Mexican affairs committee.

22 Section 8. APPROPRIATIONS. --

23 A. Three hundred twenty-five thousand dollars
24 (\$325,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the office
25 of the governor for expenditure in fiscal year 2003 for

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1 operations of the office of Mexican affairs. Any unexpended
2 or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year
3 2003 shall revert to the general fund.

4 B. Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) is
5 appropriated from the general fund to the legislative council
6 service for expenditure in fiscal year 2003 for operations and
7 staffing of the Mexican affairs committee. Any unexpended or
8 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2003
9 shall revert to the general fund.

10 Section 9. DELAYED REPEAL. -- Sections 2 through 7 of this
11 act are repealed effective July 1, 2004.