

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 35

Introduced by Assembly Member Kelley

February 20, 2002

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 35—Relative to the Mexicali/Calexico Border Crossing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 35, as introduced, Kelley. Mexicali/Calexico Border Crossing: SENTRI Program.

This measure would memorialize the President and Vice President of the United States, the United States Congress, and certain federal agencies, including the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the United States Customs Service, to take the necessary steps to implement the SENTRI program at the Mexicali/Calexico border crossing.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Persons wishing to cross the international border
2 between Mexico and California have traditionally been subject to
3 long wait times during peak periods; and
4 WHEREAS, An unfortunate byproduct of the heightened
5 security regime implemented since the September 11, 2001,
6 terrorist attacks on the United States has been an increase in
7 already long wait times at the border; and
8 WHEREAS, The economic well-being of the border regions in
9 both the United States and Mexico is dependent on flows of people
10 and goods across the border with a minimum of delay; and
11 WHEREAS, The economy of Imperial County depends heavily
12 on shoppers from Mexico; and

1 WHEREAS, Federal officials have successfully implemented
2 reduced border crossing times for persons qualifying for use of the
3 Secure Electronic Network For Travelers Rapid Inspection
4 (SENTRI) program, which provides access to a dedicated
5 commuter lane and uses automated vehicle identification
6 technology at a limited number of United States international
7 border crossings, including the Otay Mesa crossing near
8 Tijuana/San Diego; and

9 WHEREAS, Persons eligible for the SENTRI program have
10 been previously identified as low risk persons who regularly use
11 the border crossing; and

12 WHEREAS, The SENTRI program provides law enforcement
13 with good, solid information about program participants, and
14 avoids the need to continuously inspect these pre-cleared
15 individuals; and

16 WHEREAS, It would be beneficial to commerce and tourism on
17 both sides of the border to implement the SENTRI program at the
18 Mexicali/Calexico border crossing in order to decrease the border
19 wait times for both United States and Mexican citizens; and

20 WHEREAS, The government of the State of Baja California has
21 indicated its interest in expansion of the SENTRI program; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California,*
24 *jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully memorializes the United
25 States Congress and federal agencies, including the Immigration
26 and Naturalization Service and the United States Customs Service,
27 to take the necessary steps to implement the SENTRI program at
28 the Mexicali/Calexico border crossing; and be it further

29 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
30 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
31 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
32 Chairpersons of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, to
33 each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress
34 of the United States, and to the Immigration and Naturalization
35 Service and the United States Customs Service.

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