

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 3, 2008

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 146

**Introduced by Assembly Member Solorio
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members De Leon and Portantino)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Coto and Saldana)**

June 23, 2008

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 146—Relative to the California-Mexico Project.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 146, as amended, Solorio. California-Mexico Project.

This measure would encourage faculty and student exchange between California's and Mexico's institutions of higher education through the California-Mexico Project. This measure would request the California Postsecondary Education Commission and the California Research Bureau to assess and determine the current number of faculty and students exchanged between California's and Mexico's institutions of higher education.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Student exchange programs not only evoke
2 learning, but also perpetuate constructive communication and
3 collaborative efforts between different groups; and
4 WHEREAS, The California-Mexico Project, created by
5 California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) Professor
6 Armando Vazquez-Ramos, *which* not only involves the exchange
7 of students, but also the exchange of faculty members—~~as~~ , *is* an

1 initiative that could attract more teachers and staff to work at
2 California State Universities; and

3 WHEREAS, The enhancement of the California-Mexico Project
4 will increase CSULB's status as a competitive, top-tier university;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The California-Mexico Project could be enhanced
7 to provide cooperative research grants, scholarships, internships,
8 and fellowships for California State University (CSU) *students*
9 and Mexican students who strive to engage and learn together; and

10 WHEREAS, Under the North American Free Trade Agreement
11 (NAFTA), United States companies and Mexican businesses are
12 partnering more than ever before; and

13 WHEREAS, Mexico is California's number one business partner
14 and, according to the United States Department of Commerce,
15 United States exports to Mexico exceeded one hundred thirty-six
16 billion dollars (\$136,000,000,000) in 2007; and

17 WHEREAS, The majority of the 10,000 Mexican students who
18 come to the United States study at private universities rather than
19 attending campuses within the University of California or the CSU
20 systems; and

21 WHEREAS, The California-Mexico Project would create a
22 solid, long-term relationship with the National Autonomous
23 University of Mexico (UNAM) and other key institutions under
24 Mexico's National Association of Universities and Higher
25 Education Institutions (ANUIES), leading to the establishment of
26 joint research ventures and the development of jointly accredited
27 degree programs; and

28 WHEREAS, Positive unification and constructive teamwork
29 between CSULB, UNAM, and ANUIES create better
30 understanding relating to issues of legal and illegal immigration;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, An influential and constructive relationship with
33 Mexico could allow policy and economic collaborations with other
34 countries; and

35 WHEREAS, The California-Mexico Project could be a model
36 for other top-tier international universities seeking to strengthen
37 and diversify their own student exchange programs; and

38 WHEREAS, Student exchange programs, such as the
39 California-Mexico Project at CSULB, will guide and teach a new
40 generation of students who will greatly impact and positively

1 influence California-Mexico relations and policy development;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The collaboration among CSULB, UNAM, and
4 ANUIES will demonstrate once again that California is an
5 educational and intellectual leader that strives to work with the
6 international community; now, therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
8 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
9 formally endorses the pioneering work of the California-Mexico
10 Project and duly recognizes the leadership provided by Professor
11 Armando Vazquez-Ramos, CSULB College of Liberal Arts Dean,
12 Gerry Riposa, and CSULB Chicano Studies Department Chair,
13 Luis L. Arroyo, for fostering this initiative to build institutional
14 relations between California's and Mexico's colleges and
15 universities; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California also
17 duly recognizes the leadership provided by UNAM, Los Angeles
18 Director Alfredo Alvarez Cardenas, ANUIES Central Region
19 President Omar Wicab Gutierrez, ~~California State~~ California CSU
20 Bakersfield Professor Gonzalo Santos, and Centro Tlahuica de
21 Lenguas e Intercambio Cultural (CETLALIC) Director Jorge Torres
22 Viveros, for their dedication to and collaboration with the
23 California-Mexico Project; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California supports
25 the California-Mexico Project's continuing effort to increase the
26 mobility and exchange of faculty and students between California's
27 and Mexico's institutions of higher education; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California requests
29 the California Postsecondary Education Commission and the
30 California Research Bureau to assess and determine the current
31 number of faculty and students exchanged between California's
32 and Mexico's institutions of higher education; and be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California consider
34 policies and programs that will enhance the mobility and exchange
35 of faculty and students between California's and Mexico's
36 institutions of higher education, given the demographic and
37 educational needs of the State of California in the 21st Century;
38 and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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