

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 23, 2014
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 6, 2014
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 11, 2013
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2013
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 690

Introduced by Assembly Members Campos and Medina
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo, Daly, Fox, Linder, and
V. Manuel Pérez)*

February 21, 2013

An act to add the heading of Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 99500) to, to add Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 99520) and Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 99530) to, Title 20 of, and to repeal Chapter 8 (commencing with *Section* 8700) and Chapter 8.1 (commencing with *Section* 8710) of Division 1 of Title 2 of, the Government Code, relating to state government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 690, as amended, Campos. State government: international relations.

Existing law requires the California-Mexico Border Relations Council to, among other things, coordinate activities of state agencies that are related to cross-border programs, initiatives, projects, and partnerships that exist within state government. Existing law also authorizes the Office of California-Mexico Affairs to develop better relations with Mexico by coordinating with state agencies to foster economic cooperation.

This bill would repeal, and recast those provisions relating to the California-Mexico Border Relations Council. This bill would ~~repeal~~, *repeal* and recast those provisions relating to the Office of California-Mexico Affairs.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 8700) of
2 Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code is repealed.

3 SEC. 2. Chapter 8.1 (commencing with Section 8710) of
4 Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code is repealed.

5 SEC. 3. The heading of Chapter 1 (commencing with Section
6 99500) is added to Title 20 of the Government Code, to read:

7
8 CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS
9

10 SEC. 4. Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 99520) is added
11 to Title 20 of the Government Code, to read:

12
13 CHAPTER 2. OFFICE OF CALIFORNIA-MEXICO AFFAIRS
14

15 99520. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

16 (a) The United States and Mexican economies have become
17 increasingly integrated, particularly since the 1994 adoption of the
18 North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA.

19 ~~(b) This integration has brought both California and Mexico~~
20 ~~opportunities and challenges in the areas of economic development,~~
21 ~~labor relations, and environmental protection.~~

22 ~~(c) The California Office of the Southwest Border Regional~~
23 ~~Conference (formerly commission) was established as part of a~~
24 ~~joint American border states effort to further and develop favorable~~
25 ~~relations with the six Mexican border states.~~

26 ~~(d) The efforts of the California office of the conference continue~~
27 ~~to be an essential part of California's interaction with Mexico.~~

28 ~~(e) It is important for the state and for the nation that state~~
29 ~~agencies continue to address important United States-Mexico~~
30 ~~issues.~~

1 ***(b) As the second largest United States exporter to Mexico,***
2 ***California has the potential to increase its exports at a faster pace***
3 ***and capitalize on Mexico’s growing economy.***

4 ***(c) In 2012, the value of California’s exports to Mexico totaled***
5 ***\$26.3 billion, equivalent to more than one and one-half times***
6 ***California’s trade with its closest trade partner Canada, at \$17.2***
7 ***billion, and almost twice its second closest trade partner, China,***
8 ***at \$13.9 billion.***

9 ***(d) The relationship between Mexico and California generates***
10 ***over \$20.9 billion per year for California.***

11 ***(e) According to the United States Chamber of Commerce, trade***
12 ***with Mexico in 2010 represented 692,240 California jobs, making***
13 ***California the state with the most trade-related jobs with Mexico***
14 ***in the United States. California is the second-largest exporter to***
15 ***Mexico among the 50 states, ranking behind Texas.***

16 ***(f) Among California’s international trading partners, only***
17 ***Mexico shares a border with California. In fact, California has***
18 ***four major international border crossings supporting the movement***
19 ***of both persons and goods: San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, Tecate, and***
20 ***Calexico. Of these, Otay Mesa and Calexico accommodate the***
21 ***largest volume of trade. Otay Mesa is the largest California***
22 ***crossing, ranking sixth in the nation. In 2010, these California***
23 ***gateways with Mexico moved \$46.9 billion in merchandise.***

24 ***(g) At issue is border crossing delays between Mexico and the***
25 ***United States along the Imperial County-Baja California border.***

26 ***(h) In California, losses due to border crossing delays accounted***
27 ***for an estimated revenue loss of \$1.16 billion and 25,000 jobs in***
28 ***2008.***

29 ***(i) While California remains the largest recipient of foreign***
30 ***domestic investment (FDI) in the United States, faster FDI is***
31 ***occurring elsewhere.***

32 ***(j) Despite this critical economic relationship, California has***
33 ***not had a formal mechanism for the past decade devoted to***
34 ***maximizing trade, addressing challenges, and coordinating***
35 ***cross-border programs for trade development between the two***
36 ***countries. This has left California employers and businesses***
37 ***without formal access to Mexican government officials, a major***
38 ***disadvantage to California’s trade industries.***

39 ***(k) In 2006, the Office of California-Mexico Affairs was***
40 ***established to further and develop favorable relations with Mexican***

1 states by cooperating with similar organizations and agencies
 2 situated within California, the United States, or Mexico. Important
 3 areas of activity include, but are not limited to, enhancing
 4 economic development opportunities among the participating
 5 states, improving working conditions and living standards, and
 6 fostering the protection and improvement of the environment in
 7 Mexico and California.

8 (l) To help carry out these duties the California-Mexico Border
 9 Relations Council was also established to identify new border
 10 priorities and fundable projects in the areas of infrastructure,
 11 trade, environment, health, and security while supporting current
 12 and ongoing activities such as the Border Governors Conference,
 13 trade missions, and border workgroups, and coordinating specific
 14 future projects with Mexico.

15 (m) It is critical for California that state agencies continue to
 16 address important United States-Mexico issues.

17 (n) Furthermore, California should maximize its economic
 18 relationship with Mexico to improve the state's economy, to
 19 maximize the amount of exports, and create more California jobs.

20 (o) Therefore, the Legislature finds that California needs a
 21 formalized trade relationship with Mexico. Establishing an official
 22 trade relationship with Mexico will help ensure that the state can
 23 improve its global competitiveness and protect California industry,
 24 proactively support the expansion and location of businesses in
 25 California, provide international business assistance to California
 26 businesses, and support their entry and successful participation
 27 in the growing Mexican marketplace.

28 (f)

29 (p) The Office of California-Mexico Affairs ~~provides~~ and the
 30 California-Mexico Border Relations Council provide a focal point
 31 in state government to serve as a clearinghouse for information
 32 and assistance to other state agencies that are involved with
 33 Mexico.

34 99521. The following definitions shall govern the construction
 35 of this chapter:

36 (a) "Conference" means the Southwest Border Regional
 37 Conference.

38 (b) "Office" means the Office of California-Mexico Affairs.

39 99522. (a) There is in state government an Office of
 40 California-Mexico Affairs. Within this office the operations of the

1 California Office of the Southwest Border Regional Conference
2 shall be continued.

3 (b) The office succeeds to and is vested with all the duties,
4 powers, purposes, and responsibilities vested in the California
5 office of the conference and previously vested in the Commission
6 of the Californias.

7 (c) The office shall have possession and control of all records,
8 papers, offices, equipment, supplies, moneys, funds, appropriations,
9 land, and other property, real or personal, held for the benefit or
10 use of the California office of the conference, or previously held
11 for the benefit or use of the commission, in the performance of the
12 duties, powers, purposes, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of the
13 California office of the conference or the commission.

14 ~~99523. The members of the Southwest Border Regional~~
15 ~~Conference shall be the Governors of the four American border~~
16 ~~states. The California member of the conference is the Governor~~
17 ~~of California or his designee.~~

18 *99523. The Governor, or his or her designee, shall serve as*
19 *the California member of any board, council, commission, or other*
20 *binational advisory or coordinating body convened under the*
21 *auspices of the Office of the California-Mexico Affairs.*

22 99524. The office shall further and develop favorable relations
23 with the State of Baja California, the State of Baja California Sur,
24 other Mexican states bordering ~~on~~ the United States, and the
25 remaining states and territories of the Republic of Mexico
26 necessary for the completion of the office's tasks. The office shall
27 cooperate with similar organizations and agencies situated within
28 California, the United States, or Mexico, to further economic
29 development, improve working conditions and living standards,
30 and foster the protection and improvement of the environment in
31 Mexico and California. The office shall avail itself of the services
32 of the San Diego State University, which is engaged in educational,
33 cultural, and research activities with Mexico. The office shall be
34 responsible for carrying out the ongoing responsibilities of the
35 Southwest Border Regional Conference *and any successor*
36 *binational organization.*

37 99525. The Governor shall appoint a director of the office. The
38 director may appoint and employ any personnel that he or she
39 deems necessary to carry out the functions of the office. The office
40 may incur all necessary expenses to effectuate its purposes and

1 may accept grants from federal and state agencies. The office may
2 also accept funds from private organizations or individuals in order
3 to assist the office in the accomplishment of its functions as set
4 forth in this chapter.

5 99526. Members and employees of the office may travel outside
6 of California and may hold hearings and conduct investigations
7 within and outside of the state whenever necessary to carry out
8 the duties set forth in this chapter. Members and employees may
9 acquire any available information from any governmental agency
10 within the United States or Mexico necessary for the completion
11 of their tasks.

12 99527. The office shall be responsible for the establishment
13 of committees in those topic areas deemed necessary by the
14 director. Recommendations of the committees shall not be binding
15 on the Governor or the Legislature but shall only be advisory in
16 nature.

17 SEC. 5. Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 99530) is added
18 to Title 20 of the Government Code, to read:

19
20 CHAPTER 3. CALIFORNIA-MEXICO BORDER RELATIONS COUNCIL
21

22 99530. The following definitions shall apply to this chapter:

23 (a) "Border" means the line of demarcation between California
24 and Mexico.

25 (b) "Council" means the California-Mexico Border Relations
26 Council.

27 (c) "Public agency" means a city, county, city and county,
28 district, or the state or any agency or department of the state.

29 99531. (a) The California-Mexico Border Relations Council
30 is hereby established in state government. The council shall consist
31 of the Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic
32 Development, the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, the
33 Secretary for Environmental Protection, the Secretary of California
34 Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Transportation, the
35 Secretary of Food and Agriculture, and the Director of Emergency
36 Services.

37 (b) The Director of the Governor's Office of Business and
38 Economic Development shall chair the council.

39 99532. The council shall do all of the following:

1 (a) Coordinate activities of state agencies that are related to
2 cross-border programs, initiatives, projects, and partnerships that
3 exist within state government, to improve the effectiveness of state
4 and local efforts that are of concern between California and
5 Mexico.

6 (b) Establish policies to coordinate the collection and sharing
7 of data related to cross-border issues between and among agencies.

8 (c) Identify and recommend to the Legislature changes in law
9 needed to achieve the goals of this section.

10 99533. Beginning January 1, 2008, the council shall submit a
11 report to the Legislature on the council's activities annually.

O