

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 11, 2014
AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 30, 2014
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 ~~repeat~~, *repeal* and recast those provisions relating to the California-Mexico Border Relations Council. This bill would ~~repeal and recast those provisions relating to the Office of California-Mexico Affairs.~~ *provisions.*

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2 Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code is repealed.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.~~

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5 Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code is repealed.

6 ~~SEC. 3.~~

7 *SEC. 2.* The heading of Chapter 1 (commencing with Section
8 99500) is added to Title 20 of the Government Code, to read:

9
10 CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

11
12 ~~SEC. 4.~~

13 *SEC. 3.* Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 99520) is added
14 to Title 20 of the Government Code, to read:

15
16 CHAPTER 2. ~~OFFICE OF CALIFORNIA-MEXICO AFFAIRS~~
17 CALIFORNIA-MEXICO BORDER RELATIONS COUNCIL

18
19 99520. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

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

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

26 (c) In 2012, the value of California’s exports to Mexico totaled
27 \$26.3 billion, equivalent to more than one and one-half times
28 California’s trade with its closest trade partner Canada, at \$17.2

1 billion, and almost twice its second closest trade partner, China,
2 at \$13.9 billion.

3 (d) The relationship between Mexico and California generates
4 over \$20.9 billion per year for California.

5 (e) According to the United States Chamber of Commerce, trade
6 with Mexico in 2010 represented 692,240 California jobs, making
7 California the state with the most trade-related jobs with Mexico
8 in the United States. California is the second largest exporter to
9 Mexico among the 50 states, ranking behind Texas.

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

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

20 (h) In California, losses due to border crossing delays accounted
21 for an estimated revenue loss of \$1.16 billion and 25,000 jobs in
22 2008.

23 (i) While California remains the largest recipient of foreign
24 domestic investment (FDI) in the United States, faster FDI is
25 occurring elsewhere.

26 (j) Despite this critical economic relationship, California has
27 not had a formal mechanism for the past decade devoted to
28 maximizing trade, addressing challenges, and coordinating
29 cross-border programs for trade development between the two
30 countries. This has left California employers and businesses
31 without formal access to Mexican government officials, a major
32 disadvantage to California's trade industries.

33 (k) In 2006, the Office of California-Mexico Affairs was
34 established to further and develop favorable relations with Mexican
35 states by cooperating with similar organizations and agencies
36 situated within California, the United States, or Mexico. Important
37 areas of activity include, but are not limited to, enhancing economic
38 development opportunities among the participating states,
39 improving working conditions and living standards, and fostering

1 the protection and improvement of the environment in Mexico and
2 California.

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

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

12 (n) Furthermore, California should maximize its economic
13 relationship with Mexico to improve the state’s economy, to
14 maximize the amount of exports, and create more California jobs.

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

23 (p) ~~The Office of California-Mexico Affairs and the~~
24 ~~California-Mexico Border Relations Council~~ *provide provides* a
25 focal point in state government to serve as a clearinghouse for
26 information and assistance to other state agencies that are involved
27 with Mexico.

28 99521. The following definitions shall govern the construction
29 of this chapter:

30 ~~(a) “Conference” means the Southwest Border Regional~~
31 ~~Conference.~~

32 ~~(b) “Office” means the Office of California-Mexico Affairs.~~

33 (a) “Border” means the line of demarcation between California
34 and Mexico.

35 (b) “Council” means the California-Mexico Border Relations
36 Council.

37 (c) “Public agency” means a city, county, city and county,
38 district, or the state or any agency or department of the state.

39 99522. (a) *The California-Mexico Border Relations Council*
40 *is hereby established in state government. The council shall consist*

1 *of the Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic*
2 *Development, the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, the*
3 *Secretary for Environmental Protection, the Secretary of California*
4 *Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Transportation, the*
5 *Secretary of Food and Agriculture, and the Director of Emergency*
6 *Services.*

7 *(b) The Secretary for Environmental Protection shall chair the*
8 *council.*

9 *99523. The council shall do all of the following:*

10 *(a) Coordinate activities of state agencies that are related to*
11 *cross-border programs, initiatives, projects, and partnerships that*
12 *exist within state government, to improve the effectiveness of state*
13 *and local efforts that are of concern between California and*
14 *Mexico.*

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

17 *(c) Identify and recommend to the Legislature changes in law*
18 *needed to achieve the goals of this section.*

19 *99524. Beginning January 1, 2008, the council shall submit*
20 *a report to the Legislature on the council's activities annually.*

21 ~~99522. (a) There is in state government an Office of~~
22 ~~California-Mexico Affairs. Within this office the operations of the~~
23 ~~California Office of the Southwest Border Regional Conference~~
24 ~~shall be continued.~~

25 ~~(b) The office succeeds to and is vested with all the duties,~~
26 ~~powers, purposes, and responsibilities vested in the California~~
27 ~~office of the conference and previously vested in the Commission~~
28 ~~of the Californias.~~

29 ~~(c) The office shall have possession and control of all records,~~
30 ~~papers, offices, equipment, supplies, moneys, funds, appropriations,~~
31 ~~land, and other property, real or personal, held for the benefit or~~
32 ~~use of the California office of the conference, or previously held~~
33 ~~for the benefit or use of the commission, in the performance of the~~
34 ~~duties, powers, purposes, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of the~~
35 ~~California office of the conference or the commission.~~

36 ~~99523. The Governor, or his or her designee, shall serve as the~~
37 ~~California member of any board, council, commission, or other~~
38 ~~binational advisory or coordinating body convened under the~~
39 ~~auspices of the Office of California-Mexico Affairs.~~

1 99524. ~~The office shall further and develop favorable relations~~
2 ~~with the State of Baja California, the State of Baja California Sur,~~
3 ~~other Mexican states bordering the United States, and the remaining~~
4 ~~states and territories of the Republic of Mexico necessary for the~~
5 ~~completion of the office's tasks. The office shall cooperate with~~
6 ~~similar organizations and agencies situated within California, the~~
7 ~~United States, or Mexico, to further economic development,~~
8 ~~improve working conditions and living standards, and foster the~~
9 ~~protection and improvement of the environment in Mexico and~~
10 ~~California. The office shall avail itself of the services of San Diego~~
11 ~~State University, which is engaged in educational, cultural, and~~
12 ~~research activities with Mexico. The office shall be responsible~~
13 ~~for carrying out the ongoing responsibilities of the Southwest~~
14 ~~Border Regional Conference and any successor binational~~
15 ~~organization.~~

16 99525. ~~The Governor shall appoint a director of the office. The~~
17 ~~director may appoint and employ any personnel that he or she~~
18 ~~deems necessary to carry out the functions of the office. The office~~
19 ~~may incur all necessary expenses to effectuate its purposes and~~
20 ~~may accept grants from federal and state agencies. The office may~~
21 ~~also accept funds from private organizations or individuals in order~~
22 ~~to assist the office in the accomplishment of its functions as set~~
23 ~~forth in this chapter.~~

24 99526. ~~Members and employees of the office may travel outside~~
25 ~~of California and may hold hearings and conduct investigations~~
26 ~~within and outside of the state whenever necessary to carry out~~
27 ~~the duties set forth in this chapter. Members and employees may~~
28 ~~acquire any available information from any governmental agency~~
29 ~~within the United States or Mexico necessary for the completion~~
30 ~~of their tasks.~~

31 99527. ~~The office shall be responsible for the establishment~~
32 ~~of committees in those topic areas deemed necessary by the~~
33 ~~director. Recommendations of the committees shall not be binding~~
34 ~~on the Governor or the Legislature but shall only be advisory in~~
35 ~~nature.~~

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

1 CHAPTER 3. CALIFORNIA-MEXICO BORDER RELATIONS COUNCIL

2
3 99530. The following definitions shall apply to this chapter:

4 (a) "Border" means the line of demarcation between California
5 and Mexico.

6 (b) "Council" means the California-Mexico Border Relations
7 Council.

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

10 99531. (a) The California-Mexico Border Relations Council
11 is hereby established in state government. The council shall consist
12 of the Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic
13 Development, the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, the
14 Secretary for Environmental Protection, the Secretary of California
15 Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Transportation, the
16 Secretary of Food and Agriculture, and the Director of Emergency
17 Services.

18 (b) The Secretary for Environmental Protection shall chair the
19 council.

20 99532. The council shall do all of the following:

21 (a) Coordinate activities of state agencies that are related to
22 cross-border programs, initiatives, projects, and partnerships that
23 exist within state government, to improve the effectiveness of state
24 and local efforts that are of concern between California and
25 Mexico.

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

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

30 99533. Beginning January 1, 2008, the council shall submit a
31 report to the Legislature on the council's activities annually.