
Introduced by Senators Polanco and Kelley

May 11, 1998

Senate Joint Resolution No. 45—Relative to federal transportation funding.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 45, as introduced, Polanco. Federal transportation funding.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to provide full federal transportation funding to ensure safe and cost-effective transportation into the 21st century through California's ports of entry into Mexico, including the timely completion of State Highway Route 7.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Trade between Mexico and the United
2 States is estimated to increase by 93 percent by the year
3 2000, and the state's border road network is already
4 overburdened; and
5 WHEREAS, Southern California has five port-of-entry
6 border crossings; and
7 WHEREAS, Between the years 1983 and 1991,
8 nontruck vehicular traffic increased 138 percent, truck
9 traffic increased 257 percent, and this traffic is only
10 expected to increase further; and
11 WHEREAS, In 1995, the transportation system carried
12 over 27 million northbound auto crossings with an
13 estimated 83 million passengers, 690,000 northbound

1 truck crossings, and nearly 16 million pedestrian
2 crossings; and

3 WHEREAS, Currently, border crossing delays are 45
4 minutes during off-peak times and over 2.5 hours during
5 peak periods; and

6 WHEREAS, Because of delays and other problems, on
7 average, only 2 percent of all vehicles crossing from
8 Mexico into the United States actually are inspected; and

9 WHEREAS, The Otay Mesa customs facility, the
10 second most used commercial crossing along the United
11 States-Mexico border, has truck traffic of over 2,700
12 vehicles a day, which is only expected to increase as the
13 year 2001 approaches and the North American Free
14 Trade Agreement (NAFTA) takes full effect; and

15 WHEREAS, Nearly 800 trucks cross the border at
16 Calexico every day, and according to the Department of
17 Transportation (CalTrans), this number is expected to
18 exceed 1,600 daily within the next 10 years; and

19 WHEREAS, The connection between Calexico East at
20 State Highway Route 7 and the interstate highway system
21 is State Highway Route 98, a two-lane road, and State
22 Highway Route 111, a four-lane road; and

23 WHEREAS, Completion of State Highway Route 7
24 would allow commercial traffic to bypass State Highway
25 Route 98 and directly access the interstate highway
26 system, thereby avoiding the circuitous route either
27 through developed areas of the City of Calexico,
28 including residential areas, a school, and a commercial
29 area, or on two-lane country roads outside the city; now,
30 therefore, be it

31 *Resolved*, By the Senate and Assembly of the State of
32 California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully
33 memorializes the President and Congress of the United
34 States to provide full federal transportation funding to
35 ensure safe and cost-effective transportation into the 21st
36 century through California's ports of entry into Mexico,
37 including the timely completion of State Highway Route
38 7; and be it further

39 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit
40 copies of this resolution to the President and Vice



1 President of the United States, the Speaker of the House
2 of Representatives, and each Senator and Representative
3 from California in the Congress of the United States.

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