

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19—COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(ON BEHALF OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR)

MARCH 17, 1999

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Urges Congress permanently to mitigate consequences of Section 110 of Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. (BDR R-1394)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~[omitted material]~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress permanently to mitigate the consequences of Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

- 1 WHEREAS, The economy of the State of Nevada is dependent upon
- 2 tourism; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Canada and Mexico rank No. 1 and No. 7, respectively,
- 4 among Nevada's sources of international tourism, sending more than 1.5
- 5 million Canadian visitors and more than 104,000 Mexican visitors to this
- 6 state per year; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Visitors from Canada and Mexico comprise a major
- 8 economic contribution to the State of Nevada; and
- 9 WHEREAS, The United States has entered into international trade
- 10 agreements with its neighbors, Canada and Mexico, to foster, encourage
- 11 and stimulate the exchange of goods and products for mutual economic
- 12 gain; and
- 13 WHEREAS, The United States does not currently require departing
- 14 tourists returning to Canada and Mexico to be stopped and identified at
- 15 border crossings; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and
- 17 Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 requires that a new entry-exit control
- 18 system be implemented to track all foreign visitors entering and leaving the
- 19 United States but does not provide any law enforcement benefits; and

1 WHEREAS, The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant
2 Responsibility Act of 1996 would impose new border inspection
3 requirements for the gathering of data at entry and departure points for
4 vehicular traffic from Canada and Mexico where none currently exist; and

5 WHEREAS, The new border entry-exit system does not provide for any
6 enhancement of provisions for apprehending or removing illegal
7 immigrants, drug traffickers, terrorists or other criminals and would not
8 curtail illegal immigration at the borders; and

9 WHEREAS, No inspection stations or other facilities for departing
10 foreign travelers have been constructed; and

11 WHEREAS, This system would be implemented at enormous expense to
12 the taxpayers of the United States with no tangible benefits; and

13 WHEREAS, Congress has held hearings at various sites along the
14 Canadian border to consider exempting that country from the provisions of
15 the Act, but no such hearings have been held or are scheduled in the
16 Mexican border states; and

17 WHEREAS, Mexican and Canadian tourists who enter the United States
18 for business and recreational travel are not immigrants; and

19 WHEREAS, These nonimmigrant Mexican and Canadian business and
20 leisure travelers who will already be required to present travel documents
21 to enter the United States, would be subjected to inspections and queries
22 upon departure that would cause travel delays and inconveniences to those
23 tourists; and

24 WHEREAS, Such delays and inconveniences would discourage tourism in
25 the United States by Mexican and Canadian citizens, delay commerce and
26 create an economic downturn; and

27 WHEREAS, The borders with Canada and Mexico should be kept
28 reasonably free of governmental over-involvement in order to encourage
29 tourism, trade and legitimate economic activity that benefit all three
30 countries; and

31 WHEREAS, The National Governors' Association at its meeting in
32 Washington in February 1998 determined that the entry-exit control system
33 may have "unintended negative consequences on international trade,
34 tourism and the economy"; and

35 WHEREAS, The National Governors' Association urged suspension of
36 implementing the entry-exit control system until Congress and the President
37 can ensure that any such system will not disrupt tourism, trade or other
38 legitimate traffic entering the United States; and

39 WHEREAS, Congress passed legislation in October 1998 delaying
40 imposition of the implementation of the provisions of Section 110 until
41 March 31, 2001, but allowing the exit system to take effect at the airports
42 of international entry in the United States; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,
2 JOINTLY, That Congress is hereby urged permanently to mitigate the
3 consequences of the provisions of Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration
4 Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996; and be it further
5 RESOLVED, That Congress is encouraged to keep the borders between
6 the United States and Canada and Mexico reasonably free of governmental
7 over-involvement and to impose no new restrictions until infrastructure is
8 available that can collect data and detect illegal and unwanted immigration
9 without disrupting legitimate tourist travel; and be it further
10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy
11 of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding
12 officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each
13 member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further
14 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage and
15 approval.

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