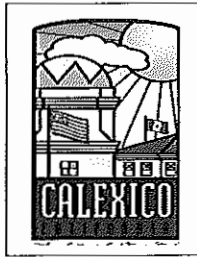


AGENDA  
ITEM

18



# AGENDA STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** April 21, 2021

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**APPROVED BY:** Miguel Figueroa, City Manager *MK*

**PREPARED BY:** Miguel Figueroa, City Manager  
Carlos Campos, City Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Letter of Support for California Senate Bill 705

=====

**Recommendation (by Mayor Arreola-Fernandez):**

It is recommended that the City Council consider and authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for California Senate Bill 705 (Hueso) *Workforce development: Binational Education and Workforce Opportunities Act*

**Discussion:**

Senate Bill ("SB") 705 is named the Binational Education and Workforce Opportunities Act.

SB 705 requires the California Department of Education and the California Workforce Development Board to develop a strategic plan to increase access to, and quality of, binational and cross-border educational opportunities, that would provide comprehensive cross-border and binational workforce development opportunities, including educational, training, certification, and placement services to generate jobs and careers.

SB 705 gives project examples that could be used implement the strategic plan:

- Building resilient cross-border supply chains.
- Developing cross-border and binational postsecondary coursework and degree opportunities.
- Expanding binational internship and workforce training programs.
- Facilitating binational educational and cultural exchanges.
- Establishing support programs for transborder pupils or other pupils whose education is obtained in both nations.
- Increasing access to, and the quality of, bilingual or multilingual instructional programs.

AGENDA  
ITEM  
**18**

- Implementing a grant program to fund projects that advance the goals of this article.

**Attachments:**

1. Letter of Support for SB 705
2. Text of SB 705
3. Fact sheet prepared by Senator Ben Hueso's office



# City of Calexico

608 HEBER AVENUE

CALEXICO, CA 92231

(760) 768-2102

April 21, 2021

The Honorable (NAME OF CHAIR OF COMMITTEE)  
Chair, Senate (NAME OF COMMITTEE)  
State Capitol, Room (ROOM NUMBER OF COMMITTEE)  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair (NAME OF CHAIR):

On behalf of the City of Calexico, we are proud to support SB 705 (Hueso), which requires the Workforce Development Board and the Department of Education to jointly develop a strategic plan with designated goals related to the improvement of binational educational and economic outcomes.

The passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) led to the integration of the U.S. and Mexican economies through increased cross-border manufacturing and trade. Today, over 5 million U.S. jobs are supported by trade with Mexico, forming part of a complex network of cross-border supply chains. Goods cross the border back and forth multiple times before final assembly, developing one of the world's most impactful production platforms.

Expanded cross-border trade has been integral to California's success as the fifth largest economy in the world. California boasts one of the world's busiest international land border crossings and the busiest between the United States and Mexico. Although movement across our border is not limited only to goods, much of our conversation centers around the physical infrastructure needed to support all this economic activity, leaving behind much needed focus on the development of the workforce needed to remain globally competitive.

Although California has been ground zero for advanced cross-border manufacturing and trade, we have not taken the appropriate steps needed to train our workforce and sustain our cross-border economy.

As California continues working towards economic recovery, addressing the challenges experienced by a growing binational workforce and student population will be key to building a more resilient and equitable economy. By requiring the Workforce Development Board and the Department of Education to come up with a strategic plan, including the development of a grant program, to support binational workforce and educational opportunities, California can reap the

benefits that come with a growing binational economy while addressing inequities experienced by a largely invisible segment of our economy. Through these efforts, we can build a more sustainable economy while increasing access to economic prosperity.

On behalf of the City of Calexico I would like to thank Senator Hueso for his leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely,

**CITY OF CALEXICO**

Rosie Arreola-Fernandez  
Mayor

**SECTION 1.**

Article 10.5 (commencing with Section 33438) is added to Chapter 3 of Part 20 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the Education Code, to read:

**Article 10.5. Binational Education and Workforce Opportunities Act  
33438.**

The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) California is a global leader, and our relationship with Mexico plays an increasing role in our economy and the future of our jobs.

(b) The development of a binational workforce will be crucial to California's global competitiveness.

(c) More attention and investment is needed to strengthen California's workforce, to foster more collaboration to address shared challenges with Mexico, and to build economic resiliency.

**33438.5.**

(a) The department and the California Workforce Development Board shall jointly develop a strategic plan with goals that include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Improving educational outcomes for binational educational programs.

(2) Enhancing support strategies.

(3) Fostering economic growth and recovery through binational cooperation.

(4) Increasing binational workforce development opportunities.

(b) The department and the California Workforce Development Board shall jointly create guidelines for the strategic plan that accomplish either or both of the following objectives:

(1) Increasing access to, and the quality of, binational and cross-border educational opportunities.

(2) Providing comprehensive cross-border and binational workforce development opportunities, including educational, training, certification, and placement services to generate jobs and careers.

(c) Projects that may be undertaken to implement the strategic plan and effectuate its goals include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Building resilient cross-border supply chains.

(2) Developing cross-border and binational postsecondary coursework and degree opportunities.

(3) Expanding binational internship and workforce training programs.

(4) Facilitating binational educational and cultural exchanges.

(5) Establishing support programs for transborder pupils or other pupils whose education is obtained in both nations.

(6) Increasing access to, and the quality of, bilingual or multilingual instructional programs.

(7) Implementing a grant program to fund projects that advance the goals of this article.



## SB 705 (Hueso)- Binational Education and Workforce Opportunities Act

### Summary

SB 705 requires the Workforce Development Board and the Department of Education to jointly develop a strategic plan with designated goals related to the improvement of binational educational and economic outcomes.

### Background

The passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) led to the integration of the U.S. and Mexican economies through increased cross-border manufacturing and trade. Today, over 5 million U.S. jobs are supported by trade with Mexico, forming part of a complex network of cross-border supply chains. Goods cross the border back and forth multiple times before final assembly, developing one of the world's most impactful production platforms.

Expanded cross-border trade has been integral to California's success as the fifth largest economy in the world. California boasts one of the world's busiest international land border crossings and the busiest between the United States and Mexico. Although movement across our border is not limited only to goods, much of our conversation centers around the physical infrastructure needed to support all this economic activity, leaving behind much needed focus on the development of the workforce needed to remain globally competitive.

### Why this bill is needed?

Although California has been ground zero for advanced cross-border manufacturing and trade, we have not taken the appropriate steps needed to train our workforce and sustain our cross-border economy. Today, there are an estimated 1.5 million minors in Mexico with ties to the U.S. and 9 million "students we share", students from Mexican immigrant households enrolled in elementary school between Mexico and the United States. These minors comprise a segment of a

growing binational student population that includes students that cross the border every day to attend school, students of Mexican descent, and college students seeking binational educational experiences, among others. Research by the UCSD Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies shows that students that have some binational experience have lower educational aspirations and expectations than students without binational experience. These binational students are less likely to expect to finish college than their peers. They have lower high school and college completion rates than their peers without binational experience. In San Diego, 52% of students report challenges with integration and language, and 35% of binational young people are at risk of depression, repercussions of difficult life circumstances and stress.

As California continues working towards economic recovery, addressing the challenges experienced by a growing binational workforce and student population will be key to building a more resilient and equitable economy. By requiring the Workforce Development Board and the Department of Education to come up with a strategic plan, including the development of a grant program, to support binational workforce and educational opportunities, California can reap the benefits that come with a growing binational economy while addressing inequities experienced by a largely invisible segment of our economy. Through these efforts, we can build a more sustainable economy while increasing access to economic prosperity.

### Staff Contact

Alexis Castro

Legislative Director

[Alexis.Castro@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Alexis.Castro@sen.ca.gov)

Capitol Office: 916-651-4040



**Support**

---

**Opposition**

---

No Opposition.

