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Southwest Regional Border Authority Act

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Economics and Public Finance

Introduced: Feb 26, 2003

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (text of measure as introd

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2850-2855) (Feb 26, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/458>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NM • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Feb 26, 2003
Sen. Hutchison, Kay Bailey [R-TX]	R · TX		Feb 26, 2003
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		May 21, 2003

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 26, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Economics and Public Finance

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
108 HR 1071	Related bill	Jun 18, 2003: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote.

Summary (as of Feb 26, 2003)

Southwest Regional Border Authority Act - Establishes the Southwest Regional Border Authority to: (1) develop plans and programs for the economic development of the Southwest border region (specified counties in California, New Mexico, and Texas); (2) conduct and sponsor investigations, research, and studies of the resources of the region; (3) sponsor up to ten authorized demonstration projects; (4) enhance the capacity of and support for local development districts or, if there is no such district for a portion of the region, foster the creation of one; (5) review, study, and recommend appropriate modifications to Federal, State, and local development programs for the region; (6) formulate and recommend interstate compacts and other forms of interstate and international cooperation; (7) encourage private investment in the region; (8) provide a forum for the consideration of problems of the region; (9) establish and use citizens, special advisory counsels, and public conferences; and (10) provide for the avoidance of duplication of efforts among the border programs of Federal agencies and the programs established under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Authorizes the Authority to approve grants for regional infrastructure development and improvement, technology development and deployment, community development and entrepreneurship, and education and workforce development. Provides funding. Requires the Authority to allocate at least 60 percent of the amounts authorized under this Act for programs and projects to serve the needs of distressed counties and isolated areas of distress within counties along the international border between the United States and Mexico. Authorizes the Authority to increase the Federal share to up to 90 percent of a project's total cost (to aid communities that could not otherwise meet matching funds requirements). Requires the Authority to make grants to local development districts for administrative expenses.

Directs the Authority, for purposes of grant assistance, to designate within the region distressed counties, economically strong counties, attainment counties, competitive counties, and isolated areas of distress.

Requires each affected State to submit to the Authority an annual development plan for the appropriate State area within the region.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 26, 2003:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 26, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S2849-2850)
- **Feb 26, 2003:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2850-2855)

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