

Calendar No. 336

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 133

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 11, 2019

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

DECEMBER 17, 2019

Reported by Mr. RISCH, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

AN ACT

To promote economic partnership and cooperation between
the United States and Mexico.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States-Mexico
5 Economic Partnership Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The United States and Mexico have bene-
9 fitted from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partner-

1 ship focused on advancing the economic interests of
2 both countries.

3 (2) In 2013, Mexico adopted major energy re-
4 forms that opened its energy sector to private invest-
5 ment, increasing energy cooperation between Mexico
6 and the United States and opening new opportuni-
7 ties for United States energy engagement.

8 (3) On January 18, 2018, the Principal Deputy
9 Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Af-
10 fairs at the Department of State stated, “Our ex-
11 change programs build enduring relationships and
12 networks to advance U.S. national interests and for-
13 eign policy goals : : : The role of our exchanges
14 : : : in advancing U.S. national security and eco-
15 nomic interests enjoys broad bipartisan support from
16 Congress and other stakeholders, and provides a
17 strong return on investment.”.

18 (4) According to the Institute of International
19 Education, in the 2015–2016 academic year, more
20 than 56,000 United States students studied in other
21 countries in the Western Hemisphere region while
22 more than 84,000 non-United States students from
23 the region studied in the United States, but only
24 5,000 of those United States students studied in

1 Mexico and only 16,000 of those non-United States
2 students were from Mexico.

3 (5) In March 2011, the United States launched
4 the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative, which
5 seeks to increase educational exchanges between the
6 United States and other countries in the Western
7 Hemisphere region so that 100,000 United States
8 students are studying in other countries in the West-
9 ern Hemisphere region and 100,000 non-United
10 States students from the region are studying in the
11 United States per year by 2020.

12 (6) In January 2014, the United States estab-
13 lished the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innova-
14 tion Fund, which seeks to realize the goals of the
15 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative by facili-
16 tating a public-private partnership between the De-
17 partment of State and nongovernmental organiza-
18 tions, corporations, and universities in the United
19 States and other countries of the Western Hemi-
20 sphere region.

21 (7) To date, the 100,000 Strong in the Amer-
22 icas Innovation Fund has awarded more than 100
23 grants to more than 250 higher education institu-
24 tions from 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere
25 region, and has raised \$9,000,000 in investments,

1 75 percent of which was from corporations, founda-
 2 tions, and regional governments.

3 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

4 It is the policy of the United States—

5 (1) to continue deepening economic cooperation
 6 between the United States and Mexico; and

7 (2) to seek to prioritize and expand educational
 8 and professional exchange programs with Mexico, in-
 9 cluding through the framework of the 100,000
 10 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

11 **SEC. 4. STRATEGY TO PRIORITIZE AND EXPAND EDU-**
 12 **CATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE**
 13 **PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall de-
 15 velop a strategy to carry out the policy described in section
 16 3, to include prioritizing and expanding educational and
 17 professional exchange programs with Mexico through the
 18 framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initia-
 19 tive.

20 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-
 21 section (a) shall—

22 (1) encourage more academic exchanges be-
 23 tween the United States and Mexico at the sec-
 24 ondary, post-secondary, and post-graduate levels, es-
 25 pecially with communities and through academic in-

stitutions in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

(2) encourage United States and Mexican academic institutions and businesses to collaborate to assist prospective and developing entrepreneurs in strengthening their business skills and promoting cooperation and joint business initiatives across the United States and Mexico, with a focus on initiatives in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

(3) promote energy infrastructure coordination and cooperation through support of vocational-level education, internships, and exchanges between the United States and Mexico, particularly in the region in which the Eagle Ford Shale is located and in proximity to such region; and

(4) assess the feasibility of fostering partnerships between universities in the United States and medical school and nursing programs in Mexico to ensure that medical school and nursing programs in Mexico have comparable accreditation standards as medical school and nursing programs in the United States by the Accreditation and Standards in Foreign Medical Education, in addition to the Accreditation Commission For Education in Nursing, so that medical students can pass medical licensing

1 board exams, and nursing students can pass nursing
 2 licensing exams, in the United States.

3 ~~(c) REPORT.~~—Not later than 180 days after the date
 4 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
 5 submit to Congress a report on the strategy required
 6 under subsection (a).

7 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 ~~(1) 100,000 STRONG IN THE AMERICAS INITIA-~~
 10 ~~TIVE.~~—The term “100,000 Strong in the Americas
 11 Initiative” means the initiative established in March
 12 2011 by the United States Government to increase
 13 educational exchanges in the Western Hemisphere.

14 ~~(2) COVERED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER~~
 15 ~~REGION.~~—The term “covered United States-Mexico
 16 border region” means those portions of the United
 17 States and Mexico that are within 100 kilometers of
 18 the international boundary between those countries.

19 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

20 *This Act may be cited as the “United States-Mexico*
 21 *Economic Partnership Act”.*

22 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

23 *Congress finds the following:*

24 *(1) The United States and Mexico have bene-*
 25 *fitted from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partner-*

1 *ship focused on advancing the economic interests of*
2 *both countries.*

3 (2) *In 2013, Mexico adopted major energy re-*
4 *forms that opened its energy sector to private invest-*
5 *ment, increasing energy cooperation between Mexico*
6 *and the United States and opening new opportunities*
7 *for United States energy engagement.*

8 (3) *On January 18, 2018, the Principal Deputy*
9 *Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Af-*
10 *fairs at the Department of State stated, “Our ex-*
11 *change programs build enduring relationships and*
12 *networks to advance U.S. national interests and for-*
13 *ign policy goals . . . The role of our exchanges . . .*
14 *in advancing U.S. national security and economic in-*
15 *terests enjoys broad bipartisan support from Congress*
16 *and other stakeholders, and provides a strong return*
17 *on investment.”.*

18 (4) *According to the Institute of International*
19 *Education, in the 2015–2016 academic year, more*
20 *than 56,000 United States students studied in other*
21 *countries in the Western Hemisphere region while*
22 *more than 84,000 non-United States students from*
23 *the region studied in the United States, but only*
24 *5,000 of those United States students studied in Mex-*

1 *ico and only 16,000 of those non-United States stu-*
 2 *dents were from Mexico.*

3 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

4 *It is the policy of the United States—*

5 *(1) to continue deepening economic cooperation*
 6 *between the United States and Mexico;*

7 *(2) to seek to prioritize and expand educational*
 8 *and professional exchange programs with Mexico, in-*
 9 *cluding through frameworks such as the 100,000*
 10 *Strong in the Americas Initiative, the Young Leaders*
 11 *of the Americas Initiative, Jóvenes en Acción (Youth*
 12 *in Action), the Fulbright Foreign Student Program,*
 13 *and the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program; and*

14 *(3) to promote positive cross-border relations as*
 15 *a priority for advancing United States foreign policy*
 16 *and programs.*

17 **SEC. 4. STRATEGY TO PRIORITIZE AND EXPAND EDU-**
 18 **CATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE**
 19 **PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO.**

20 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall develop*
 21 *a strategy to carry out the policy described in section 3,*
 22 *to include prioritizing and expanding educational and pro-*
 23 *fessional exchange programs with Mexico through frame-*
 24 *works such as those referred to in section 3(2).*

1 (b) *ELEMENTS.*—*The strategy required under sub-*
2 *section (a) shall—*

3 (1) *encourage more academic exchanges between*
4 *the United States and Mexico at the secondary, post-*
5 *secondary, and post-graduate levels;*

6 (2) *encourage United States and Mexican aca-*
7 *demie institutions and businesses to collaborate to as-*
8 *sist prospective and developing entrepreneurs in*
9 *strengthening their business skills and promoting co-*
10 *operation and joint business initiatives across the*
11 *United States and Mexico;*

12 (3) *promote energy infrastructure coordination*
13 *and cooperation through support of vocational-level*
14 *education, internships, and exchanges between the*
15 *United States and Mexico; and*

16 (4) *assess the feasibility of fostering partnerships*
17 *between universities in the United States and medical*
18 *school and nursing programs in Mexico to ensure that*
19 *medical school and nursing programs in Mexico have*
20 *comparable accreditation standards as medical school*
21 *and nursing programs in the United States by the*
22 *Accreditation and Standards in Foreign Medical*
23 *Education, in addition to the Accreditation Commis-*
24 *sion For Education in Nursing, so that medical stu-*
25 *dents can pass medical licensing board exams, and*

1 *nursing students can pass nursing licensing exams, in*
2 *the United States.*

3 *(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date*
4 *of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall*
5 *brief the appropriate congressional committees regarding*
6 *the strategy required under subsection (a).*

7 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

8 *In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-*
9 *mittees” means—*

10 *(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the*
11 *Senate; and*

12 *(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the*
13 *House of Representatives.*

14 **SEC. 6. SUNSET PROVISION.**

15 *This Act shall remain in effect until December 31,*
16 *2023.*

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DECEMBER 17, 2019

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