
Community & Economic Development & Housing Committee

HJM 4017

Brief Description: Encouraging the beyond the border action plan on perimeter security and economic competitiveness and the action plan on regulatory cooperation between the United States and Canada.

Sponsors: Representatives Kenney, Finn, Santos, Ryu, Maxwell and Sells; by request of Lieutenant Governor.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Prays that the President, executive branch agencies, and Congress carry out and provide resources for the implementation of the Beyond the Border Action Plan on Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness and the Action Plan on Regulatory Cooperation.

Hearing Date: 1/30/12

Staff: Jennifer Thornton (786-7147).

Background:

On February 4, 2011, President Barack Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued the joint declaration, Beyond the Border: A Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness, which articulates a shared approach to security in which both countries work together to address threats within, at, and away from United States and Canadian borders, while expediting lawful trade and travel. They also announced the creation of the Canada-United States Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) composed of senior regulatory, trade, and foreign affairs officials from both governments, for the purpose of increasing regulatory transparency and coordination between the two countries.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

In December of 2011, the United States and Canada released the Beyond the Border Action Plan that details methods for the United States and Canada to work together to enhance joint security and accelerate the legitimate flow of people, goods, and services through four areas of cooperation: (1) addressing threats early; (2) promoting trade facilitation, economic growth, and jobs; (3) strengthening cross-border law enforcement; and (4) protecting shared critical infrastructure and enhancing cybersecurity.

Also, in December of 2011, the initial Joint Action Plan of the RCC was released. This initial Joint Action Plan seeks to foster new approaches to regulatory alignment and serve as a template for future efforts at Canada-U.S. coordination to help reduce barriers to trade, lower costs for consumers and business, and create economic opportunities on both sides of the border through the alignment of regulatory approaches, while not compromising health, safety, or environmental protection standards.

Summary of Bill:

The Washington State Senate and House of Representatives recognize the history of partnership and the economic and trade relationship between the United States and Canada.

A request is made to the President, executive branch agencies, and Congress to: 1) work together to see that the Beyond the Border Action Plan on Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness and the Action Plan on Regulatory Cooperation are carried out; and 2) see that the United States' appointees to the Beyond the Border Working Group, the Regulatory Cooperation Council, and the United States' agencies responsible for implementing the Action Plans have the resources necessary to assist in realizing the goals of the action plans.

Copies of the memorial must be sent to the President, each member of Congress from the State of Washington, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and specified secretaries of executive branch agencies.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.