

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION HCR1025

By: Pope of the House

and

Leftwich of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution relating to international development; making findings regarding international development; calling for creation of standing committees on International Development in the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the State Senate; requesting certain composition of committee membership; describing functions of standing committees; providing for role of committees with respect to Oklahoma Department of Commerce; requesting assignment of certain legislation to standing committees; and providing for distribution.

WHEREAS, international development is an issue that concerns the State of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Legislature recognizes the importance of international issues for the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the issues related to international development can be complex and may require specialized knowledge; and

WHEREAS, it is important for the Oklahoma Legislature to make every possible effort to assist Oklahoma-based business activity in developing markets for goods and services on an international basis; and

WHEREAS, it may be equally important to the economy of the State of Oklahoma for businesses in other countries to either locate business assets within the state, invest in Oklahoma business enterprises or form strategic partnerships with Oklahoma businesses which benefit the Oklahoma economy; and

WHEREAS, the formation of a Standing Committee on International Development for both the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the

State Senate could be a useful method for focusing attention on the importance of international economic and related issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate, pursuant to the respective rules of each chamber, create a standing committee on International Development.

THAT the House committee be comprised of the chairs and at least one member of the minority party of the standing committees on Agricultural and Rural Development, Common Education, Economic Development, Energy and Utility Regulation, Higher Education, Natural Resources and Regulatory Services subcommittee of the Appropriations and Budget Committee, Revenue and Taxation, Tourism and Recreation Committee and such other standing committees as the Speaker of the House deems relevant.

THAT the Senate committee be comprised of the chairs and at least one member of the minority party of the standing committees on Agriculture and Rural Development, Education, Energy, Environment and Communications, Finance, Tourism and Wildlife and such other standing committees of the State Senate as the President Pro Tempore deems relevant.

THAT the functions of the standing committees shall include, but not be limited to, working with the Oklahoma Congressional delegation in support of federal efforts to promote international development, review of compliance with national and international trade agreements and recommendations for changes to Oklahoma law to assure compliance with such trade agreements, review of proposed trade legislation produced by the Office of the United States Trade Representative and communication with all relevant federal or international agencies, boards, commissions, departments,

instrumentalities or other entities in order to promote and enhance the role of Oklahoma and Oklahoma citizens, business entities, associations and organizations in the international development environment.

THAT the committees be a point of contact for the International Division of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and receive annual reports from the Department regarding existing programs designed to support international development and evaluate the programs according to appropriate criteria, including but not limited to, those published by the Elliott School of International Affairs of George Washington University.

THAT the committees, with the assistance of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, maintain a record of foreign and international contacts within the State of Oklahoma, including, but not limited to, foreign investment within the state, commercial and civic activity with ties to the international community, the number of foreign students attending institutions of higher education, the number of foreign professors teaching at institutions of higher education, and such other matters as the committees may determine.

THAT legislation with the potential to impact international development be assigned to the respective committees of each chamber either as the single committee assignment or as part of a multiple committee assignment process for the complete review of proposed legislation having a potential impact on international development at the state or local level in Oklahoma.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the Chairs of the Joint Special Committee on International Development.

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