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____ **TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

State of New Mexico

2023

HB _ _ _ _

by Rep. Pete Campos

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the New Mexico Route 66 Centennial Commission Act. Sets forth the appointment of the members, duties, and meeting requirements of the Commission. Provides that the Commission shall plan and sponsor Route 66 centennial events, programs, and activities and shall encourage the development of programs to involve all citizens in Route 66 centennial events. Requires the Commission to deliver a final report of its activities to the Governor no later than June 30, 2027. Provides that the Commission shall be dissolved on June 30, 2027.

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of**
3 **New Mexico, Represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 New Mexico Route 66 Centennial Commission Act.

6 Section 2. Purpose. Route 66 is one of the original
7 highways within the National Highway System. The importance of
8 Route 66 is rooted within its cultural and historical impact
9 beginning with its numerical designation in 1926 to its
10 upcoming centennial in 2026.

11 From the outset, public road planners intended for the
12 highway to connect the main streets of rural and urban
13 communities so that small towns could have access to a major
14 national thoroughfare. New Mexico has had a major impact on Route
15 66 as the Gateway to the Southwest. Route 66 in New Mexico is
16 comprised of approximately 604 miles through numerous iconic
17 towns, starting at the Texas border, eventually reaching the
18 Arizona border before continuing its way to Santa Monica, California.

19 The New Mexico Route 66 Association has served New Mexico
20 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1989 and
21 governed by a distinguished Board of Directors. The Association
22 mission statement: "We are dedicated to the education, promotion,
23 and preservation of the New Mexico Historic Route 66 Scenic Byway
24 and the economic revitalization along its 604 mile stretch
25 throughout the state since 1989."

26 The New Mexico Route 66 Association was instrumental in
27 obtaining National Scenic Byway designation for Historic Route

28
29 The Association serves as the Point-of-Contact for the New Mexico
30 Route 66 Scenic Byway.

31 The Association's achievements have been recognized with both
32 state and national awards: National Scenic Byways Best Practices
33 Recognition (For preservation projects, Preservation Project of
34 the Year: *Route 66 Magazine*, Regional Emmy Award Winner: Best
35 Cultural Documentary "Route 66 The Neon Road" (Subject matter
36 Route 66 neon sign preservation, and NM Heritage Preservation
37 Award (NM Dept. Cultural Affairs).

38 The Association has a solid and substantial record of
39 successful grant administration having executed Route 66
40 preservation projects on time and on budget for a number of
41 sponsors including: National Park Service, National Scenic Byways,
42 and New Mexico Department of Tourism. The Association record of
43 achievement continues with a FY 2023 Route 66 preservation grant
44 funded for FY 2023 by the National Park Service.

45 The Association has for the last 20 years published "*Route*
46 *66 New Mexico*" magazine, a high quality periodical distributed
47 to Association members and state and municipal government
48 officials. In addition, copies are distributed free to state
49 and local visitor centers. The magazine documents Route 66
50 history and culture and features news, events, and tourism
51 destinations.

52 The Association also has developed a statewide preservation
53 awards program that annually recognizes business owners and
54 other entities who have contributed to Route 66 preservation,
55 economic development, and education.

56 The Association maintains strong relationships with Route
57 66 communities through city governments, MainStreet programs,
58 Lodgers Tax Boards, and Chambers of Commerce which provides the
59 Association with input regarding local issues associated with
60 preservation and economic development.

61 In 2023, the association will open the New Mexico Route 66
62 Association Visitor Center and Museum in Tucumcari that will
63 also serve as the official Route 66 Welcome Center for the state.

64 The Association is well positioned and experienced to
65 identify and invest Route 66 centennial funds to enable projects
66 that celebrate and benefit New Mexico Route 66 communities.

67 2026 will mark the centennial of the creation of Route 66.
1 The centennial is an opportunity to promote the preservation
2 and commemoration of Route 66 including, but not limited to,
3 existing roadways, buildings, and attractions along the route.
4 The centennial is also an opportunity to celebrate the
5 important history of Route 66 in New Mexico through
6 commemorative, educational, and community events. The
7 centennial celebration may include events about the history of
8 how local communities grew and changed with the construction of
9 Route 66, the cultural impact of Route 66 within the United
10 States and internationally, the portrayal of Route 66 in music,
11 artwork, and folklore, and how to maintain the mystique and
12 appeal of Route 66 for future generations.

13 Section 3. Commission. The Commission shall be composed
14 of 20 members who reflect the interests, history, and
15 importance of the communities along Route 66 in New Mexico. The

16 HB ~~members~~ shall be appointed as follows: - 5 -

17 (1) two public members appointed by the Speaker of the
18 House of Representatives;

19 (2) two public members appointed by the Minority Leader of
20 the House of Representatives;

21 (3) two public members appointed by the President of the
1 Senate;

2 (4) two public members appointed by the Minority Leader of
3 the Senate;

4 (5) three public members appointed by the Governor, one of
5 whom shall serve as chairperson; and

6 (6) nine ex officio members as follows:

7 (A) the Governor, or his or her designee;

8 (B) the Secretary of the Department of Transportation,
9 or his or her designee;

10 (C) the Director of the New Mexico Historic Preservation
11 Agency, or his or her designee;

12 (D) the Director of the Department of Natural
13 Resources, or his or her designee;

14 (E) the Director of the Office of Tourism, or his or
15 her designee;

16 (F) the Director of the Department of Commerce and
17 Economic Opportunity, or his or her designee;

18 (G) the Director of the State Archives, or his or her
19 designee;

20 (H) the President of the Route 66 Association of
21 New Mexico, or his or her designee; and

22 (I) the Executive Director of the New Mexico Route 66

23 HB ~~Scenic Byway~~, or his or her designee. - 6 -

24 Section 15. Ex officio members. An ex officio member of the
25 Commission vacates the person's position on the Commission if

1 the person ceases to hold the position that qualifies the
2 person for service on the Commission.

3 Section 4. Compensation; expenses.

4 (a) A public member of the Commission is not entitled to
5 compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for the travel
6 expenses incurred by the member while transacting Commission
7 business.

8 (b) An ex officio member's service on the Commission is an
9 additional duty of the underlying position that qualifies the
10 member for service on the Commission. The entitlement of an ex
11 officio member to compensation or reimbursement for travel
12 expenses incurred while transacting Commission business is
13 governed by the law that applies to the member's service in
14 that underlying position, and any payment to the member for
15 either purpose must be made from an appropriation that may be
16 used for the purpose and is available to the State agency that
17 the member serves in that underlying position.

18 Section 5. Meetings; quorum; voting.

19 (a) The Commission shall meet at least quarterly at the
20 times and places in this State that the Commission designates.

21 (b) A majority of the members of the Commission constitute
22 a quorum for transacting Commission business.

23 Section 30. Powers and duties. The Commission shall:

1 (1) plan and sponsor official Route 66 centennial events,
2 programs, and activities in the State;

3 (2) encourage the development of programs designed to
4 involve all citizens in activities that commemorate Route 66
5 centennial events in the State; and

6 (3) to the best of the Commission's ability, make available
7 to the public information on Route 66 centennial events
8 happening throughout the State.

9 Section 6. Administrative support. Subject to
10 appropriation, the Office of Tourism shall provide
11 administrative and other support to the Commission.

12 Section 7. New Mexico Route 66 Centennial Commission Fund;
13 in-kind gifts.

14 (a) The Commission may accept monetary gifts and grants
15 from any public or private source, to be held in the New Mexico
16 Route 66 Centennial Commission Fund. The New Mexico Route 66
17 Centennial Commission Fund is created as a non-appropriated
18 trust fund to be held outside of the State treasury, with the
19 State Treasurer as custodian. The Fund shall be expended solely
20 for the use of the Commission in performing the Commission's
21 powers and duties under this Act.

22 (b) The Commission may also accept in-kind gifts.

23 Section 8. Dissolution of the Commission. No later than

1 June 30, 2027, a final report on the Commission's activities
2 shall be delivered to the Governor. The Commission shall be
3 dissolved on June 30, 2027, and any assets remaining in the
4 New Mexico Route 66 Centennial Commission Fund shall be deposited
5 in to the General Revenue Fund.

6 Section 9. Repeal. This Act is repealed on December 1,
7 2027.