

New Mexico House Panel Eyes State Cuban Trade Office



Havana, February 11 (RHC) -- A New Mexico House panel is set to discuss a proposal that would create a state Cuban Trade Office.

The House Government, Elections & Indian Affairs Committee is scheduled Wednesday to debate the bill sponsored by Rep. Miguel Garcia.

Under the proposal, the office would identify potential buyers in Cuba for New Mexico goods and services. The office also would assist New Mexico businesses with marketing in Cuba.

The move comes following the recent thaw in Cuba-US relations that saw the easing of some restrictions on trade and travel.

The economic blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba prohibits trade relations between the two neighbors, however some exceptions exist, including agricultural products and more recently communications equipment.

The agribusiness sectors has been one of the staunchest supporters of the lifting of the U.S. economic sanctions on Cuba. A delegation of the U.S. *Agriculture Coalition for Cuba* is slated to arrive in Cuba soon to discuss business prospects among other issues.

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