

Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 16-0506.01 Esther van Mourik x4215

HOUSE BILL 16-1279

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Rosenthal,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees
Business Affairs and Labor

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL SISTER-STATE
102 RELATIONSHIP PROGRAM BY THE COLORADO OFFICE OF
103 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/bills summaries>.)

The bill requires the Colorado office of economic development to establish and maintain an international sister-state relationship program.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-48.5-124 as
3 follows:

4 **24-48.5-124. Establishment and maintenance of international**
5 **sister-state relationship program - legislative declaration - definition.**

6 (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

7 (I) A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP IS A FORMAL DECLARATION OF
8 FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO REGIONS, STATES, OR NATIONS;

9 (II) IN THIS AGE OF EVER-EXPANDING GLOBALIZATION IT IS
10 INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT THAT PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES
11 UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER;

12 (III) A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP IS A SYMBOL OF MUTUAL
13 GOODWILL, THEREBY ENCOURAGING BILATERAL COOPERATION; AND

14 (IV) SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIPS ARE DEVELOPED AND
15 IMPLEMENTED TO ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL
16 SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL, AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN
17 A PARTICULAR GLOBAL REGION AND THE STATE.

18 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT
19 THE STATE ALREADY HAS EXISTING SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIPS WITH
20 YAMAGATA PREFECTURE IN JAPAN AND KANGWON PROVINCE IN SOUTH
21 KOREA AND COLORADO'S CITIES AND TOWNS HAVE SISTER-CITY
22 RELATIONSHIPS WITH CITIES AND TOWN AROUND THE WORLD.

23 (c) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT
24 THE COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS WELL PLACED TO
25 ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP PROGRAM IN
26 ORDER TO CENTRALLY HOUSE THE INFORMATION, CREATE TRANSPARENCY,
27 AND HELP THE OFFICE FURTHER ITS EFFORTS TOWARD IMPROVING

1 INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

2 (2) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "STATE" INCLUDES A
3 PROVINCE, PREFECTURE, ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT, COUNTY, OR OTHER
4 POLITICAL BOUNDARY THAT INCLUDES ONE OR MORE CITIES OR TOWNS, OR
5 AN AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT THEREOF.

6 (3) (a) IN ADDITION TO THE POWERS AND DUTIES SPECIFIED IN
7 SECTION 24-48.5-101, THE COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
8 DEVELOPMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN, NO LATER THAN JUNE 30,
9 2017, AN INTERNATIONAL SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP PROGRAM TO
10 FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE STATE OF COLORADO AND STATES
11 IN OTHER COUNTRIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING ECONOMIC
12 GROWTH AND TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES. FOR EACH OF
13 COLORADO'S INTERNATIONAL SISTER STATES, THE OFFICE SHALL ACT AS
14 THE CONDUIT BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE DESIGNATED LEADER OF EACH
15 SISTER STATE.

16 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136, THE COLORADO OFFICE
17 OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHALL PREPARE AND SUBMIT TO THE
18 GENERAL ASSEMBLY A REPORT NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2022, AND EVERY
19 FIVE YEARS THEREAFTER, REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL SISTER-STATE
20 RELATIONSHIP PROGRAM THAT SUMMARIZES ALL KNOWN ACTIVITIES
21 CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO EXISTING SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIPS.

22 (4) (a) A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP IS ONE CHARACTERIZED BY
23 A MUTUAL INTEREST IN COLLABORATION AND THE SHARING OF
24 INFORMATION TO FURTHER EDUCATIONAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL
25 EXCHANGES BETWEEN COLORADO AND THE SISTER STATE. A SISTER-STATE
26 RELATIONSHIP DOES NOT CREATE ANY LEGAL RELATIONSHIP.

27 (b) THE COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHALL

1 ESTABLISH THE INTERNATIONAL SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP PROGRAM TO
2 MAXIMIZE COLLABORATION AND SHARING OF INFORMATION, TO PROMOTE
3 THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND WELL-BEING OF SMALL, MEDIUM, AND LARGE
4 COMPANIES IN BOTH STATES BY INCREASING THEIR POTENTIAL FOR TRADE
5 AND INVESTMENT, TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR SUSTAINED GOODWILL AND
6 COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ELECTED LEADERS OF THE STATES, AND TO
7 PROMOTE BILATERAL TIES THAT LEAD TO A MORE INDELIBLE AND LASTING
8 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CITIZENS OF THE STATES.

9 (5) THE COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MAY
10 SOLICIT IDEAS FOR INTERNATIONAL SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIPS ON ITS
11 OWN INITIATIVE OR BASED UPON IDEAS SUBMITTED BY ANY INDIVIDUAL OR
12 ENTITY.

13 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
14 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
15 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
16 10, 2016, if adjournment sine die is on May 11, 2016); except that, if a
17 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
18 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
19 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
20 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
21 November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
22 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.