

First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 17-0742.01 Esther van Mourik x4215

HOUSE BILL 17-1154

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Rosenthal,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

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**House Committees**  
Business Affairs and Labor

**Senate Committees**

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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.

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**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://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

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

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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 TOWNS 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) IN ADDITION TO THE POWERS AND DUTIES SPECIFIED IN SECTION  
7 24-48.5-101, THE COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHALL  
8 ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN, NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2018, AN  
9 INTERNATIONAL SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP PROGRAM TO FOSTER  
10 RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE STATE OF COLORADO AND STATES IN OTHER  
11 COUNTRIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND  
12 TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES. FOR EACH OF COLORADO'S  
13 INTERNATIONAL SISTER STATES, THE OFFICE SHALL ACT AS THE CONDUIT  
14 BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE DESIGNATED LEADER OF EACH SISTER  
15 STATE.

16 (4) (a) A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP IS ONE CHARACTERIZED BY  
17 A MUTUAL INTEREST IN COLLABORATION AND THE SHARING OF  
18 INFORMATION TO FURTHER EDUCATIONAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL  
19 EXCHANGES BETWEEN COLORADO AND THE SISTER STATE. A SISTER-STATE  
20 RELATIONSHIP DOES NOT CREATE ANY LEGAL RELATIONSHIP.

21 (b) THE COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHALL  
22 ESTABLISH THE INTERNATIONAL SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP PROGRAM TO  
23 MAXIMIZE COLLABORATION AND SHARING OF INFORMATION, TO PROMOTE  
24 THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND WELL-BEING OF SMALL, MEDIUM, AND LARGE  
25 COMPANIES IN BOTH STATES BY INCREASING THEIR POTENTIAL FOR TRADE  
26 AND INVESTMENT, TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR SUSTAINED GOODWILL AND  
27 COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ELECTED LEADERS OF THE STATES, AND TO

1 PROMOTE BILATERAL TIES THAT LEAD TO A MORE INDELIBLE AND LASTING  
2 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CITIZENS OF THE STATES.

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

7 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
8 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
9 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
10 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a  
11 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
12 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
13 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
14 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
15 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
16 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.