



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final
Date: 4/21/2017

Bill Number

House Bill 17-1154

Sponsors

***Representative Rosenthal
Senator Todd***

Short Title

***Creation Of A Sister-state
Relationship Program***

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill, which was postponed indefinitely by the Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee on March 1, 2017.

Background

The bill requires that the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) establish an international sister-state relationship program. OEDIT is charged with encouraging and supporting economic development within Colorado.

A sister-state relationship is a formal declaration of friendship and partnership between two regions from different areas of the world and can be used as a way to foster economic cooperation between the two partners. A sister-city relationship is a similar arrangement between two international cities.

Colorado currently has sister-state relationships with Yamagata Prefecture in Japan and Kangwon Province in South Korea. Additionally, many cities throughout Colorado have established sister-city relationships with other cities around the world. For example, Denver currently has established sister-city relationships with ten cities in other countries. These relationships are mostly volunteer organized and operated.

Several states, including California, Idaho, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, and Washington have established various forms of sister-state relationship programs. Several of these states, including California, Maryland, and Massachusetts, have established specific sister-state programs within a specific area of state government to help manage, maintain, and develop these relationships.

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House Action

House Business Affairs and Labor Committee (February 16, 2017). At the hearing, representatives from Denver Sister Cities International, Sister Cities International, and the Honorary Consul for Belgium testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill, unamended, to the House Committee of the Whole.

House second reading (February 21, 2017). The House passed the bill, unamended, on second reading.

House third reading (February 22, 2017). The House passed the bill, unamended, on third reading.

Senate Action

Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee (March 1, 2017). At the hearing, representatives from Denver Sister Cities International and the Colorado Chapter of the Armenian National Committee of America testified in support of the bill. The committee voted to postpone the bill indefinitely.