

Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**ENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 16-0506.01 Esther van Mourik x4215

**HOUSE BILL 16-1279**

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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://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.

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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.*

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 7, 2016

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

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

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

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

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