
THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 61
Author: Skinner (D), et al.
Amended: 1/8/20
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Sister state relationships with Ethiopian regional states

SOURCE: EDGET at Silicon Valley

DIGEST: This resolution extends to the people of the regional states of Amhara, Oromia, Somali, the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region, and Tigray an invitation to join with California in sister state relationships.

Senate Floor Amendments of 1/8/20 add a legislative finding to the resolution relating to the award of a Nobel Peace Prize to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The Ethiopian Embassy to the United States in Washington D.C. and the Ethiopian Consulate General in Los Angeles, which covers the western half of the United States, including California, as its consular district, have expressed interest in the creation of sister state relationships between the State of California and the Ethiopian regional states of Amhara, Oromia, Somali, the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region, and Tigray.
- 2) Diplomatic relations between the United States and Ethiopia, dating back over a century to 1903, have grown from mere state-to-state relations to people-to-people relations with the presence of large Ethiopian diaspora communities in the United States, including in California.
- 3) The economic, political, and cultural relations between Ethiopia and the United States, driven by the excellent friendly relations between the two countries and the people-to-people relationships that continue to grow in leaps and bounds, need further consolidation through local government relationships in both countries.

- 4) California is one of the largest hosts of Ethiopian diaspora communities that can bridge and further consolidate the economic, political, and cultural relations between California and the aforementioned five Ethiopian regional states, particularly the regional state of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region and the regional state of Tigray.
- 5) The sister state relationships between California and key Ethiopian regional states will foster commerce, tourism, environmental protection and sustainable development, technological and educational advancement, and cultural and people-to-people relations that are the bedrock of the spirit of entrepreneurship and development of the two friendly nations.

This resolution extends to the people of the regional states of Amhara, Oromia, Somali, the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region, and Tigray an invitation to join with California in sister state relationships in order to promote and assure mutually beneficial educational, economic, environmental, scientific, and cultural exchanges that will lead to a closer relationship between Californians and the citizens of these five key Ethiopian regional states.

Related/Prior Legislation

SR 90 (Pan, 2018) encouraged efforts to establish a sister state relationship between California and Baden-Württemberg. The resolution was adopted by the Senate.

SCR 3 (Lara, 2017-18) would have extended, on behalf of the people of the state, an invitation to the people of Cambodia to join California in a sister-state relationship. The resolution died on the Senate Inactive File.

SCR 81 (Lara, Resolution Chapter 185, Statutes of 2017) invited the State of Nayarit, Mexico, to join California in a sister state relationship.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 1/9/20)

EDGET at Silicon Valley (source)
California Black Agriculture Working Group

OPPOSITION: (Verified 1/9/20)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The sponsor of this resolution, EDGET at Silicon Valley, writes, “SCR 61 recognizes the historical, cultural, and diplomatic relations between the United States and Ethiopia, especially the presence of large Ethiopian diaspora communities in California. SCR 61 will create sister state relationships between California and key regional states, fostering collaboration in tourism, commerce, environmental protection and sustainable development, deeper cultural relations, and technological protection and sustainable development.”

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1/10/20 10:22:06

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