

Date of Hearing: April 21, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH, AND  
HOUSEHOLD IMPACT

José Luis Solache, Jr., Chair

ACR 166 (Ávila Farías) – As Introduced March 26, 2026

**SUBJECT:** State of Zacatecas: sister state relationship

**SUMMARY:** This resolution would express the intent of the Legislature to formalize a sister state relationship between the State of Zacatecas in Mexico and the State of California, in recognition of their shared heritage, economic opportunities, and mutual commitment to prosperity, dignity, and understanding.

Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Recognizes California and Zacatecas share longstanding cultural, familial, and community connections, strengthened by generations of migration and active civic engagement across regions like Los Angeles, the Central Valley, and the Bay Area.
- 2) Understands Zacatecas' growing sectors advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, and agriculture complement California's leadership in clean technology, innovation, and sustainable industries, creating strong opportunities for partnership.
- 3) Acknowledge shared values around education, culture, and opportunity are reflected in academic partnerships, scholarship programs, and Zacatecas' UNESCO-designated historic center, reinforcing mutual commitment to cultural preservation and growth.

**EXISTING LAW:** Sister-state relationships are administered through the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), which manages California's international trade and diplomacy programs, including the state's sister-state network. California currently maintains 36 sister-state, friendship-state, and cooperation agreements worldwide, reflecting longstanding practice. These relationships operate under the state's general authority to engage in international economic and cultural exchange activities, provided they do not conflict with federal foreign policy authority, which rests with the U.S. Department of State.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**COMMENTS:** The author seeks to formalize an existing relationship grounded in strong demographic, cultural, and economic ties. California has one of the largest populations of Mexican origin in the United States, and many communities maintain direct familial and economic connections to Zacatecas. These ties are especially visible in agricultural regions and major metropolitan areas where migrant labor networks have historically supported California's economy.

Zacatecas is one of Mexico's historically significant mining regions, known for silver production dating back to the Spanish colonial period. Today, it also has growing sectors in agriculture, logistics, and light manufacturing. California, by contrast, leads in clean energy, technology, and advanced manufacturing, creating potential areas for complementary economic cooperation.

The resolution emphasizes cultural and educational exchange as a foundation for cooperation. Zacatecas is home to one of Mexico's most well-preserved colonial city centers, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, reflecting its historical and architectural significance. These cultural assets provide opportunities for academic partnerships, heritage preservation programs, and student exchange initiatives with California institutions.

A notable demographic fact is that Zacatecas has one of the highest rates of out-migration in Mexico, with a large diaspora population residing in the United States, particularly in California. This contributes to strong transnational family networks and remittance flows that support local economies in both regions.

Supporters note that sister-state agreements often facilitate trade missions, workforce development programs, and cultural exchanges without requiring formal treaties or federal action. These relationships can help align regional industries, support small business development, and expand educational opportunities through institutional partnerships.

**Author's Comments:** According to the author, "As the proud granddaughter of Mexican immigrants, I believe the relationship between our two states can shape individual's opportunity, economic mobility, and support working families. Establishing a sister state partnership with the State of Zacatecas would create opportunities for cultural exchange, economic collaboration, and educational partnerships that strengthen connections between California communities and a region that has helped shape so many lives."

#### **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

##### **Support**

None on file.

##### **Opposition**

None on file.

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