
CONSENT

Bill No: ACR 166
Author: Ávila Farías (D), et al.
Introduced: 3/26/26
Vote: 21

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 4/23/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/1/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Niello, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Smallwood-Cuevas,
Strickland

SUBJECT: State of Zacatecas: sister state relationship

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution expresses the intent of the Legislature to formalize a sister state relationship between the State of Zacatecas in Mexico and the State of California, recognizing the shared heritage, economic opportunities, and mutual commitment to prosperity, dignity, and understanding.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) California currently has 36 official sister state, friendship state, and cooperation agreement relationships throughout the world that are administered through the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-BIZ), which manages international trade development, small business assistance, and assistance with state government, amongst other provisions. California's Sister, Friendship and Cooperation relationships are intended to encourage mutually beneficial diplomatic, economic, educational, and cultural exchanges between a particular global region and California.

This resolution:

- 1) Recognizes that the State of California and the State of Zacatecas, Mexico share long abiding historical, cultural, and human connections, strengthened by the migration of generations of families who have built enduring communities, enriching the Los Angeles region, the central valley, and the east bay, including Contra Costa County, through civic engagement, education, and cultural exchange.
- 2) Recognizes that the State of Zacatecas investments in advanced manufacturing, automotive supply chains, renewable energy, and agricultural innovation sectors complement California's leadership in clean technology, sustainable agriculture, and scientific research laying a foundation for future partnership collaboration.
- 3) Acknowledges the major infrastructure and industrial development projects that Zacatecas has created to attract international investment and strengthen North American supply chains.
- 4) States the shared commitment by the people of California and the people of Zacatecas to education through scholarship programs, community leadership initiatives, and academic partnerships linking students from both regions.
- 5) Recognizes the urgent importance of sustainability and environmental responsibility, acknowledging the potential partnership for cooperative research and innovation in renewable energy, responsible mining, and water resource management in both states.
- 6) Declares that a formal sister state relationship will strengthen cooperation in education, workforce, development, culture, environmental stewardship, humanitarian collaboration, and economic exchange, building upon decades of people-to-people connections.

Background

This resolution seeks to formalize a sister state relationship with Zacatecas based on generational connections, a shared historical and cultural heritage and economic opportunities. Zacatecas is a historic area known for its silver mining, abundance of minerals and colonial architecture. An influx of migration throughout the years has resulted in the largest population of Zacatecas's living in California while maintaining familial and economic ties to their homeland.

The State of Zacatecas has invested in large scale industrial plants, expanding their automotive and auto parts manufacturing footprint to strengthen the North American supply chains while creating opportunities to partner with California in advanced manufacturing sectors. Agroindustry, aerospace manufacturing, and renewable energy investments add to the primary industrial sectors in Zacatecas aligning with California's commitment to clean technology, sustainable agriculture and innovation.

The Historic Centre of Zacatecas, designated as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) holds historical significance as colonial architecture rich in cultural beauty and exceptional artistic value mirroring California's dedication to cultural diversity and creativity. Educational opportunities, academic exchanges, and binational scientific research are values that are shared and encouraged by binational partnerships with Zacatecas and California.

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

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/1/26)

The Asociacion de Jaliscienses Unidos en Accion
Mexican American Policy Alliance

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/1/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The Asociacion de Jaliscienses Unidos en Accion writes in support, "The relationship between California and Zacatecas simply makes sense. Cross-border economic ties translate into real benefits for workers, businesses, and families on both sides- so investing in local-level collaboration is a practical, high-impact approach. ACR 166 truly aligns with our mission to preserve and promote the Mexican roots in the United States, supporting the migrant community through services, education, culture, guidance and social programs that improve their quality of life."

The Mexican-American Policy Alliance notes in support, "The state sisterhood is a natural next step in cementing the strong relationship between Zacatecas and California. About 600,000 people of Zacatecan origin live in California, with the largest concentration in Southern California. Zacatecas and California share more than just people-they share a rich, beautiful history shaped by culture and language. A sister-state relationship between the two would create opportunities to

promote and share cultural and tourism experiences, while also encouraging joint business growth and workforce development collaboration.”

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 4/23/26

AYES: Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Addis, Hadwick, Celeste Rodriguez, Sharp-Collins, Soria, Wicks

Prepared by: Anna Billy / B., P. & E.D. /
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