

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 585 (Delegate Kipke, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

Secretary of State - Duties - International Friendship Agreements

This bill authorizes the Secretary of State (SOS) to form and execute an international friendship agreement that may function as a foundation to build a sister-state relationship.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is authorizing in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: SOS is the lead agency responsible for the maintenance and development of the Maryland Sister States Program. The program, established in 1980, operates in partnership with the Sister States of Maryland, a private, nonprofit corporation, to oversee and promote international exchanges. According to SOS, the program includes 21 relationships in 18 countries, including China, Japan, France, Vietnam, Belgium, South Korea, Poland, Russia, Mexico, Brazil, Liberia, Estonia, Turkey, Ireland, Nigeria, South Africa, Israel, and Peru.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 451 (Senator Rosapepe, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Secretary of State; Sister States of Maryland; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 2020
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