

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish an Office of City and State Diplomacy within the Department of State, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To establish an Office of City and State Diplomacy within the Department of State, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “City and State Diplo-  
5 macy Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The supremacy clause of the United States  
9 Constitution (article VI, clause 2) establishes that  
10 the Federal Government has the primary role in con-

1 ducting diplomacy on behalf of the United States; in  
2 turn, the Department of State, which was created  
3 pursuant to statute by Congress in 1789, has the  
4 lead role in formulating and implementing United  
5 States foreign policy.

6 (2) The growth of subnational cooperation has  
7 enabled States and municipalities to play an increas-  
8 ingly significant role in foreign policy and com-  
9 plement the efforts of the Department of State by—

10 (A) supporting exchanges and cooperation  
11 agreements between elected leaders and officials  
12 of State and municipal governments and those  
13 of international cities, regions, and countries;

14 (B) promoting United States exports to  
15 foreign markets and foreign direct investment  
16 into the United States; and

17 (C) sharing best practices and striking  
18 agreements with foreign counterparts on a wide  
19 range of topics, including facilitating trade and  
20 investment, protecting the health and safety of  
21 their respective citizens, cooperating on energy  
22 and the environment, and promoting people-to-  
23 people exchanges.

24 (3) Global networks made up exclusively of local  
25 government officials are at the forefront of har-

1       nessing the power of cities to advance international  
2       cooperation, including C40 Cities Climate Leader-  
3       ship Group, ICLEI, United Cities and Local Govern-  
4       ments, Global Parliament of Mayors, Urban20,  
5       Strong Cities Network, and Global Compact of May-  
6       ors.

7               (4) In 2010, the Department of State appointed  
8       the first-ever special representative for Global Inter-  
9       governmental Affairs, who led efforts to build stra-  
10      tegic peer-to-peer relationships between the Depart-  
11      ment of State, State and local officials, and their  
12      foreign counterparts.

13 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

14       It is the sense of Congress that—

15               (1) it is in the interest of the United States to  
16      support robust two-way partnerships between the  
17      Department of State and subnational entities to ad-  
18      vance United States foreign policy objectives, im-  
19      prove understanding of United States diplomacy,  
20      and leverage Federal resources to enhance the im-  
21      pact of subnational engagements; and

22               (2) the creation in the Department of State of  
23      an Office of City and State Diplomacy, headed by a  
24      senior Department official of appropriate rank to  
25      represent the United States at international fora,

1 would bolster United States interests through inter-  
2 national agreements and Federal support to State  
3 and local entities.

4 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF CITY AND**  
5 **STATE DIPLOMACY.**

6 Section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities  
7 Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a) is amended by adding at  
8 the end the following new subsection:

9 “(i) OFFICE OF CITY AND STATE DIPLOMACY.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established  
11 within the Department of State an Office of City  
12 and State Diplomacy (in this subsection referred to  
13 as the ‘Office’). The Department may use a similar  
14 name at its discretion and upon notification to Con-  
15 gress.

16 “(2) HEAD OF OFFICE.—The head of the Office  
17 shall be the Ambassador-at-Large for City and State  
18 Diplomacy (in this subsection referred to as the  
19 ‘Ambassador’) or other appropriate senior official.  
20 The head of the Office shall—

21 “(A) be appointed by the President, by and  
22 with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

23 “(B) report directly to the Secretary, or  
24 such other senior official as the Secretary deter-

1 mines appropriate and upon notification to  
2 Congress.

3 “(3) DUTIES.—

4 “(A) PRINCIPAL DUTY.—The principal  
5 duty of the head of the Office shall be the over-  
6 all coordination (including policy oversight of  
7 resources) of Federal support for subnational  
8 engagements by State and municipal govern-  
9 ments with foreign governments. The head of  
10 the Office shall be the principal adviser to the  
11 Secretary of State on subnational engagements  
12 and the principal official on such matters within  
13 the senior management of the Department of  
14 State.

15 “(B) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—The addi-  
16 tional duties of the head of the Office shall in-  
17 clude the following:

18 “(i) Coordinating overall United  
19 States policy and programs in support of  
20 subnational engagements by State and mu-  
21 nicipal governments with foreign govern-  
22 ments, including with respect to the fol-  
23 lowing:

24 “(I) Coordinating resources  
25 across the Department of State and

1 throughout the Federal Government  
2 in support of such engagements.

3 “(II) Identifying policy, program,  
4 and funding discrepancies among rel-  
5 evant Federal agencies regarding such  
6 coordination.

7 “(III) Identifying gaps in Fed-  
8 eral support for such engagements  
9 and developing corresponding policy  
10 or programmatic changes to address  
11 such gaps.

12 “(ii) Identifying areas of alignment  
13 between United States foreign policy and  
14 State and municipal goals.

15 “(iii) Improving communication with  
16 the United States public, including, poten-  
17 tially, communication that demonstrate the  
18 breadth of international engagement by  
19 subnational actors and the impact of diplo-  
20 macy across the United States.

21 “(iv) Providing advisory support to  
22 subnational engagements, including by as-  
23 sisting State and municipal governments  
24 regarding—



1 ernments related to subnational engage-  
2 ments and priorities.

3 “(viii) Supporting United States eco-  
4 nomic interests through subnational en-  
5 gagements, in consultation and coordina-  
6 tion with the Department of Commerce,  
7 the Department of the Treasury, and the  
8 Office of the United States Trade Rep-  
9 resentative.

10 “(ix) Coordinating subnational en-  
11 gagements with the associations of sub-  
12 national elected leaders, including the  
13 United States Conference of Mayors, Na-  
14 tional Governors Association, National  
15 League of Cities, National Association of  
16 Counties, Council of State Governments,  
17 National Conference of State Legislators,  
18 and State International Development Or-  
19 ganizations.

20 “(4) COORDINATION.—With respect to matters  
21 involving trade promotion and inward investment fa-  
22 cilitation, the Office shall coordinate with and sup-  
23 port the International Trade Administration of the  
24 Department of Commerce as the lead Federal agen-





1 of State, including the Office, Department  
2 leadership, and regional and functional bu-  
3 reaus of the Department, as appropriate.

4 “(iv) Engaging Federal agencies re-  
5 garding security, public health, trade pro-  
6 motion, and other programs executed at  
7 the State or municipal government level.

8 “(v) Any other duties requested by  
9 State and municipal governments and ap-  
10 proved by the Office.

11 “(C) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL SUPPORT  
12 FOR SUBNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT.—For the  
13 purposes of this subsection, the Secretary of  
14 State—

15 “(i) is authorized to employ individ-  
16 uals by contract;

17 “(ii) is encouraged to make use of the  
18 re-hired annuitants authority under section  
19 3323 of title 5, United States Code, par-  
20 ticularly for annuitants who are already re-  
21 siding across the United States who may  
22 have the skills and experience to support  
23 subnational governments; and

24 “(iii) is encouraged to make use of  
25 authorities under the Intergovernmental

1 Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4701 et  
2 seq.) to temporarily assign State and local  
3 government officials to the Department of  
4 State or overseas missions to increase their  
5 international experience and add their per-  
6 spectives on United States priorities to the  
7 Department.

8 “(6) REPORT AND BRIEFING.—

9 “(A) REPORT.—Not later than one year  
10 after the date of the enactment of this sub-  
11 section, the head of the Office shall submit to  
12 the Committee on Foreign Relations and the  
13 Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and  
14 the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the  
15 Committee on Appropriations of the House of  
16 Representatives a report that includes informa-  
17 tion relating to the following:

18 “(i) The staffing plan (including per-  
19 manent and temporary staff) for the Office  
20 and a justification for the location of the  
21 Office within the Department of State’s or-  
22 ganizational structure.

23 “(ii) The funding level provided to the  
24 Office for the Office, together with a jus-  
25 tification relating to such level.

1           “(iii) The rank and title granted to  
2           the head of the Office, together with a jus-  
3           tification relating to such decision and an  
4           analysis of whether the rank and title of  
5           Ambassador-at-Large is required to fulfill  
6           the duties of the Office.

7           “(iv) A strategic plan for the Office,  
8           including relating to—

9                   “(I) leveraging subnational en-  
10                   gagement to improve United States  
11                   foreign policy effectiveness;

12                   “(II) enhancing the awareness,  
13                   understanding, and involvement of  
14                   United States citizens in the foreign  
15                   policy process; and

16                   “(III) better engaging with for-  
17                   eign subnational governments to  
18                   strengthen diplomacy.

19           “(v) Any other matters as determined  
20           relevant by the head of the Office.

21           “(B) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 30 days  
22           after the submission of the report required  
23           under subparagraph (A) and annually there-  
24           after, the head of the Office shall brief the  
25           Committee on Foreign Relations and the Com-

1           mittee on Appropriations of the Senate and the  
2           Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Com-  
3           mittee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
4           resentatives on the work of the Office and any  
5           changes made to the organizational structure or  
6           funding of the Office.

7           “(7) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in  
8           this subsection may be construed as precluding—

9                   “(A) the Office from being elevated to a  
10                  bureau within the Department of State; or

11                   “(B) the head of the Office from being ele-  
12                  vated to an Assistant Secretary, if such an As-  
13                  sistant Secretary position does not increase the  
14                  number of Assistant Secretary positions at the  
15                  Department above the number authorized under  
16                  subsection (c)(1).

17           “(8) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

18                   “(A) MUNICIPAL.—The term ‘municipal’  
19                  means, with respect to the government of a mu-  
20                  nicipality in the United States, a municipality  
21                  with a population of not fewer than 100,000  
22                  people.

23                   “(B) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means the  
24                  50 States, the District of Columbia, and any  
25                  territory or possession of the United States.

1                   “(C) SUBNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT.—The  
2                   term ‘subnational engagement’ means formal  
3                   meetings or events between elected officials of  
4                   State or municipal governments and their for-  
5                   eign counterparts.”.