

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3571

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2019

Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish an Office of Subnational 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 it is in the interest
15 of the United States to promote subnational engagements,
16 align such engagements with national foreign policy objec-
17 tives, and leverage Federal resources to enhance the im-
18 pact of such engagements.

19 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF SUBNATIONAL**
20 **DIPLOMACY.**

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

24 “(h) OFFICE OF SUBNATIONAL DIPLOMACY.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established
2 within the Department of State an Office of Sub-
3 national Diplomacy (in this subsection referred to as
4 the ‘Office’).

5 “(2) HEAD OF OFFICE.—The head of the Office
6 shall be the Ambassador-at-Large for Subnational
7 Diplomacy (in this subsection referred to as the
8 ‘Ambassador’). The Ambassador shall—

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

11 “(B) report directly to the Under Sec-
12 retary for Political Affairs.

13 “(3) DUTIES.—

14 “(A) PRINCIPAL DUTY.—The principal
15 duty of the Ambassador shall be the overall su-
16 pervision (including policy oversight of re-
17 sources) of Federal support for subnational en-
18 gagements by State and municipal governments
19 with foreign governments. The Ambassador
20 shall be the principal adviser to the Secretary
21 of State on subnational engagements and the
22 principal official on such matters within the
23 senior management of the Department of State.

1 “(B) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—The addi-
2 tional duties of the Ambassador shall include
3 the following:

4 “(i) Coordinating overall United
5 States policy and programs in support of
6 subnational engagements by State and mu-
7 nicipal governments with foreign govern-
8 ments, including with respect to the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(I) Coordinating resources
11 across the Department of State and
12 throughout the Federal Government
13 in support of such engagements.

14 “(II) Identifying policy, program,
15 and funding disputes among relevant
16 Federal agencies regarding such co-
17 ordination.

18 “(III) Identifying gaps in Fed-
19 eral support for such engagements
20 and developing corresponding policy
21 or programmatic changes to address
22 such gaps.

23 “(ii) Promoting United States foreign
24 policy goals through support for sub-
25 national engagements and aligning sub-

1 national priorities with national foreign
2 policy goals, as appropriate.

3 “(iii) Maintaining a public database of
4 subnational engagements.

5 “(iv) Providing advisory support to
6 subnational engagements, including by as-
7 sisting State and municipal governments
8 to—

9 “(I) develop, implement, and, as
10 necessary, adjust global engagement
11 and public diplomacy strategies; and

12 “(II) implement programs to co-
13 operate with foreign governments on
14 policy priorities or managing shared
15 resources.

16 “(v) Facilitating linkages and net-
17 works between State and municipal govern-
18 ments and their foreign counterparts.

19 “(vi) Overseeing the work of Depart-
20 ment of State detailees assigned to State
21 and municipal governments pursuant to
22 this subsection.

23 “(vii) Negotiating agreements and
24 memoranda of understanding with foreign

1 governments to support subnational en-
2 gagements and priorities.

3 “(viii) Promoting United States trade
4 and foreign exports on behalf of United
5 States businesses through exchanges be-
6 tween the United States and foreign state,
7 municipal, and provincial governments, and
8 by establishing a more enduring relation-
9 ship overall between subnational govern-
10 ments.

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

20 “(4) DETAILEES.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of
22 State, acting through the Ambassador, is au-
23 thorized to detail Foreign Service officers to
24 State and municipal governments on a reim-
25 bursable or nonreimbursable basis. Such details

1 shall be for a period not to exceed two years,
2 and shall be without interruption or loss of For-
3 eign Service status or privilege.

4 “(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Detailees under
5 subparagraph (A) shall carry out the following:

6 “(i) Supporting the mission and objec-
7 tives of the Office.

8 “(ii) Coordinating activities relating to
9 State and municipal government sub-
10 national engagements with the Department
11 of State, including the Office, Department
12 leadership, and regional and functional bu-
13 reaus of the Department, as appropriate.

14 “(iii) Engaging the Department of
15 State and other Federal agencies regarding
16 security, public health, trade promotion,
17 and other programs executed at the State
18 or municipal government level.

19 “(iv) Advising State and municipal
20 government officials regarding questions of
21 global affairs, foreign policy, cooperative
22 agreements, and public diplomacy.

23 “(v) Any other duties requested by
24 State and municipal governments and ap-
25 proved by the Office.

1 “(5) REPORT AND BRIEFING.—

2 “(A) REPORT.—Not later than one year
3 after the date of the enactment of this sub-
4 section, the Ambassador shall submit to the
5 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of
6 Representatives and the Committee on Foreign
7 Relations of the Senate a report that includes
8 information relating to the following:

9 “(i) The staffing plan (including per-
10 manent and temporary staff) for the Of-
11 fice.

12 “(ii) The funding level provided to the
13 Office for the Office, together with a jus-
14 tification relating to such level.

15 “(iii) The status of filling the position
16 of Ambassador-at-Large for Subnational
17 Diplomacy.

18 “(iv) A strategic plan for the Office.

19 “(v) Any other matters as determined
20 relevant by the Ambassador.

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 Ambassador shall brief the Committee
25 on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-

1 tives and the Committee on Foreign Relations
2 of the Senate on the work of the Office and any
3 changes made to the organizational structure or
4 funding of the Office.

5 “(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

6 “(A) MUNICIPAL.—The term ‘municipal’
7 means, with respect to the government of a mu-
8 nicipality, a municipality with a population of
9 not fewer than 100,000 people.

10 “(B) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means the
11 50 States, the District of Columbia, and any
12 territory or possession of the United States.

13 “(C) SUBNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT.—The
14 term ‘subnational engagement’ means formal
15 meetings or events between elected officials of
16 State or municipal governments and their for-
17 eign counterparts.”.

○