

1-1 By: Orr, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Kolkhorst) H.B. No. 128
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 30, 2025;
1-3 May 5, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on State
1-4 Affairs; May 15, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 11, Nays 0; May 15, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to certain sister-city agreements between governmental
1-22 entities and foreign countries and communities.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Title 7, Government Code, is amended by adding
1-25 Chapter 795 to read as follows:

1-26 CHAPTER 795. SISTER-CITY AGREEMENTS

1-27 Sec. 795.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

1-28 (1) "Foreign adversary" means:

1-29 (A) China, Iran, North Korea, or Russia; or

1-30 (B) a country that is a designated country for
1-31 purposes of Chapter 2275.

1-32 (2) "Governmental entity" means a state agency or a
1-33 political subdivision of this state.

1-34 (3) "Sister-city agreement" means an agreement that:

1-35 (A) is between a governmental entity and a
1-36 country other than the United States or a community located in a
1-37 country other than the United States;

1-38 (B) is recognized by a nonprofit organization
1-39 exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3),
1-40 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, that serves as the national
1-41 membership organization for individual sister cities, counties,
1-42 and states across the United States; and

1-43 (C) reflects a commitment to foster and
1-44 strengthen opportunities for cultural and educational exchange
1-45 programs and tourism and to encourage other types of bilateral
1-46 cooperation between the parties to the agreement.

1-47 (4) "State agency" has the meaning assigned by Section
1-48 751.001.

1-49 Sec. 795.002. STATE POLICY REGARDING AGREEMENTS. It is the
1-50 policy of this state to encourage sister-city agreements between
1-51 governmental entities and countries that are allies of the United
1-52 States, including countries designated as major non-NATO allies
1-53 under federal law and the Republic of China, commonly known as
1-54 Taiwan, and communities located in those countries.

1-55 Sec. 795.003. CERTAIN AGREEMENTS PROHIBITED. A
1-56 governmental entity may not establish, maintain, or renew a
1-57 sister-city agreement with:

1-58 (1) a country that is a foreign adversary; or

1-59 (2) a community located in a country described by
1-60 Subdivision (1).

1-61 Sec. 795.004. WITHDRAWAL FROM CERTAIN EXISTING AGREEMENTS.

2-1 (a) A governmental entity that on September 1, 2025, is a party to a
2-2 sister-city agreement described by Section 795.003 shall withdraw
2-3 from the agreement not later than October 1, 2025.

2-4 (b) This section expires January 1, 2027.

2-5 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

2-6 * * * * *