

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5323

To enhance subnational diplomacy efforts within the Department of State,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Mr. LIEU (for himself and Mr. MEEKS) introduced the following bill; which
was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To enhance subnational diplomacy efforts 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. OFFICE OF SUBNATIONAL DIPLOMACY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established in the
5 Department of State an Office of Subnational Diplomacy
6 (referred to in this subsection as the “Office”). The Office
7 shall enable the work of the Department with sub-national
8 units of governments (such as State, county, city, and mu-
9 nicipal governments) within the United States to improve
10 the ability of such units of government to attract foreign

1 investment, counter foreign malign influence within the
2 United States, and contribute to the foreign policy prior-
3 ities of the United States.

4 (b) HEAD OF OFFICE.—The head of the Office shall
5 be the Special Representative for Subnational Diplomacy,
6 who shall report to the Under Secretary of Economic Af-
7 fairs.

8 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Special Representative
9 for Subnational Diplomacy shall additionally be respon-
10 sible for—

11 (1) advising the Under Secretary of Economic
12 Affairs on sub-national engagements within the
13 United States;

14 (2) serving as the principal official on such
15 matters within the Department;

16 (3) coordinating the Department’s support for
17 local and municipal governmental engagements with
18 foreign governments;

19 (4) advising subnational government officials on
20 the potential risks of engagements with countries of
21 concern and sharing best practices to build resilience
22 against foreign political interference and malign in-
23 fluence;

24 (5) assisting subnational governments in—

1 (A) attracting or bidding to host major
2 international events;

3 (B) tracking foreign direct investment at
4 the county and municipal levels to highlight
5 trends and opportunities;

6 (C) attracting foreign direct investment
7 and other forms of economic cooperation;

8 (D) building the capacity and knowledge of
9 subnational government staff who have respon-
10 sibility for engaging with foreign countries;

11 (E) advancing sports diplomacy with for-
12 eign countries and entities;

13 (F) implementing programs to cooperate
14 with foreign governments and entities on policy
15 priorities or managing shared resources; and

16 (G) understanding the local implications of
17 foreign policy developments or policy changes;

18 (6) supporting the economic interests of the
19 United States through subnational engagements, in
20 consultation and coordination with other relevant
21 agencies;

22 (7) advising and informing local officials during
23 the negotiation of agreements or memoranda of un-
24 derstanding with foreign governments related to sub-
25 national engagements and priorities; and

1 (8) coordinating subnational engagements with
2 associations of subnational elected leaders, such as
3 the United States Conference of Mayors, National
4 Governors Association, National League of Cities,
5 and similar associations.

