

State of Vermont

Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

Senate Resolution

Offered by Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs,

S.R. 25. Senate resolution reaffirming the abiding friendship between the State of Vermont and the Republic of China (Taiwan) on the 27th anniversary of the Vermont-Taiwan sister-state relationship and supporting enhanced Vermont-Taiwan bilateral relations and Taiwan's participation in international organizations.

Whereas, the United States and Taiwan share a vibrant and mutually beneficial bilateral relationship, based on their shared values of freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and a free market economy, and

Whereas, the U.S. government has encouraged economic, including trade, and cultural engagements and exchanges between the American and Taiwanese peoples, particularly at the state level, and

Whereas, in 2022, the United States and Taiwan launched the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade to strengthen the two nations' economic and trade relationship, and, in 2023, Congress enacted the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade First Agreement Implementation Act, Pub. L. No. 118-13, approving the first agreement under this initiative, and

Whereas, in 2025, Taiwan was America's fourth-largest trading partner, with U.S. exports valued at \$54.7 billion and imports from Taiwan worth roughly \$201.4 billion; and for the first time in over a quarter century, the United States was Taiwan's largest export market; and in the agriculture sector, U.S. exports to Taiwan totaled approximately \$2.3 billion, and

Whereas, 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the United States' establishment as a republic based on democratic principles and the 30th anniversary of Taiwan's first direct presidential election, symbolizing this Asian nation's enduring commitment to democracy, and

Whereas, in 1999, the State of Vermont and Taiwan entered a sister-state relationship that has proven mutually beneficial in many ways, and

Whereas, the 2020 driver's license reciprocity agreement between the State of Vermont and Taiwan exemplifies the sister-state relationship in action, and

Whereas, in 2025, Vermont exports to Taiwan were worth approximately \$268 million, meaning Taiwan was Vermont's most valuable Asian export destination, and second worldwide, and Vermont imported an estimated \$76 million worth of goods from Taiwan, and

Whereas, establishing a Vermont trade office in Taiwan would further enhance this already successful and long-standing trade relationship, and

Whereas, the government of Taiwan has expressed interest in establishing memorandums of understanding with the State of Vermont, one pertaining to economic affairs to establish a clearer structural framework for the two jurisdictions' burgeoning business ties and a second related to education to expand educational exchanges and cooperation, particularly with respect to Mandarin language teaching, and

Whereas, in 1979, Congress enacted the Taiwan Relations Act, Pub. L. No. 96-8, which broadly addresses the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, and one of its provisions “provides for the continued membership of the people on Taiwan in any international financial institution or any other international organization,” and

Whereas, Taiwan’s participation and contributions in international organizations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would greatly benefit the United States and the international community, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate:

That the Senate of the State of Vermont reaffirms the abiding friendship between the State of Vermont and the Republic of China (Taiwan) on the 27th anniversary of the Vermont-Taiwan sister-state relationship and supports enhanced Vermont-Taiwan bilateral relations and Taiwan’s participation in international organizations, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Donald J. Trump; President Lai Ching-te of the Republic of China (Taiwan); Director-General Charles Liao of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston; Governor Philip B. Scott; and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.