



Johnnie Morris-Tatum

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 11TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 11, 1997

TO: STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN DOBYNS

FROM: STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNIE MORRIS-TATUM

RE: AJR 19

Per your request attached is a Legislative Fiscal Bureau statement of fiscal effect relating to the establishment of a Sister-State Relationship between Wisconsin and the Cap Vert Region of Senegal.

The attached document will indicate that a sister-state relationship between the state of Wisconsin and the Cap Vert Region of Senegal will not require the commitment of any state resources.

In support of "Operation Return", which has the Governor's support the ambassadors from Senegal, Ghana, and the Gambia will be visiting our state within the month. We are requesting that AJR 19 be scheduled for hearing as soon as possible.



STATE CAPITOL: P.O. BOX 8953, MADISON, WI 53708-8953 • (608) 266-3756  
HOME: 3711 WEST DOUGLAS AVENUE, MILWAUKEE, WI 53209 • (414) 464-4677  
LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE: (MESSAGES ONLY) 1-800-362-9472 • FAX (608) 266-7038



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## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

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March 11, 1997

TO: Representative Johnnie Morris-Tatum  
Room 306 West, State Capitol

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Fiscal Effect of Adopting a Joint Resolution Requesting the Establishment of a Sister-State Relationship between Wisconsin and the Cap Vert Region of Senegal  
(~~LRB-1189/1~~) *AKA*

At your request, we have reviewed 1997 Assembly Joint Resolution \_\_ (LRB-1189/1) to determine whether there would be an identifiable fiscal effect if the proposal were adopted by the Legislature. The proposed joint resolution would place the Legislature on record as encouraging the state's executive branch to establish a sister-state relationship between Wisconsin and the Cap Vert region of Senegal. As described further below, nothing in the draft proposal would appropriate additional state funding or require the commitment of any existing state resources. Consequently, there would not be a fiscal effect if the Legislature acted to adopt the joint resolution.

Under existing Assembly rules [Assembly Rule 95(39)], a joint resolution is a legislative enactment requiring adoption by both houses of the Legislature to: (1) express an opinion of the Legislature; (2) change the Legislature's joint rules; (3) propose an amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution; or (4) propose or ratify an amendment to the U. S. Constitution. Further, the drafting manual used by the Legislative Reference Bureau in preparing legislative proposals states the following about joint resolutions [Wisconsin Bill Drafting Manual 1997-98, ch. 17]:

- They express the opinion of the Legislature and do not have the force of law (except in the case when they are used to amend the state or federal constitutions) [s. 17.13].
- They may not appropriate money. Only a duly enacted bill may appropriate funds under the Wisconsin Constitution [s. 17.02].
- Since joint resolutions are not binding on the other branches of government, the Legislature may direct action by an executive or judicial branch agency only by means of a bill [s. 17.13].

Because the proposed joint resolution under current Assembly rules and existing drafting conventions cannot appropriate additional state funding or require another branch of state government to take a specific action, we have attempted to identify whether previous state actions establishing sister-state relationships with other entities have resulted in any on-going state expenditures.

In our review of this matter, we have not been able to identify any unit of state government involved in monitoring or providing liaison services for existing sister-state relationships. The Department of Commerce does keep a listing of sister-state relationships known to it, but otherwise has no other formal involvement. According to the Department of Commerce, Wisconsin has sister-state relationships with the following entities:

- State of Jalisco (Mexico);
- State of Hesse (Germany);
- Taiwan (Republic of China);
- Heilongjiang Province (Peoples' Republic of China);
- Israel
- Chiba Province (Japan);
- Nicaragua; and
- Belgorod Province (Russian Federation).

According to the Department of Commerce, the relationship between Wisconsin and these other entities is typically formalized by an initial signed agreement. These agreements tend to promote cultural (and occasionally economic) interactions, typically on a person-to-person basis or group-to-group basis rather than through formal contacts between units of Wisconsin government and the sister-state government. Consequently, these types of contacts between Wisconsin and the sister-states do not require the commitment of any state resources in order to maintain them.

The Department of Commerce indicates that a private, nonprofit organization (Wisconsin Sister Relationships, Inc.) based in Madison apparently promotes and coordinates these the maintenance of contacts between Wisconsin and other sister-state countries and regions.

I hope that this information is helpful.

BL/TM/dls