

Introduced by Senators Block, Jackson, Leno, Steinberg, and Wolk

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Bloom, Fox, Levine,
Lowenthal, Medina, Nazarian, and John A. Pérez)

May 19, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 121—Relative to the memorandum of understanding between Israel and California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 121, as introduced, Block. Trade: Israel: memorandum of understanding.

This measure would state the Legislature's support for the memorandum of understanding for strategic partnerships for joint innovation, exchanges, and cooperation between California and Israel.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Two-way trade between Israel and California
2 totaled over \$4 billion in 2013—one of the largest two-way trade
3 relationships between Israel and a United State; and

4 WHEREAS, California and Israel share close ties and are global
5 leaders in the alternative energy, environmental technology, and
6 other technology-based industry sectors; and

7 WHEREAS, California is home to the largest in-state innovation
8 network in the United States, which offers
9 technology-commercialization opportunities for Israel; and

10 WHEREAS, The Governor of California and the Prime Minister
11 of Israel have just signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU)
12 for strategic partnerships for joint innovation, exchanges, and
13 cooperation between California and Israel; and

1 WHEREAS, This action was the culmination of an effort started
2 in the California Legislature as Assembly Bill 1032 of the 2009–10
3 Regular Session, calling for the creation of the MOU geared toward
4 fostering the exchange of information and research. The MOU
5 will strengthen relationships with Israel and help California and
6 Israel grow in these areas; and

7 WHEREAS, The participants in this MOU seek to expand the
8 current level of cooperation between Israel and California in, but
9 not limited to, alternative energy, environmental technology, health,
10 food and agriculture, and other technology-based industry sectors,
11 business innovation, research, and development; and

12 WHEREAS, The MOU will also establish a formal relationship
13 between the two parties to foster economic cooperation and
14 economic development, facilitate joint industrial research and
15 development, and enhance business relationships and educational
16 opportunities between all Israeli universities and all California
17 universities to foster job creation and incubate global solutions
18 from joint California-Israel innovation initiatives; and

19 WHEREAS, Collaboration with Israel will foster peace and
20 democracy in the Middle East; and

21 WHEREAS, To achieve these aims, the MOU envisions
22 undertaking the following actions:

23 (1) Convening bilateral, interagency working groups with
24 international expertise to coordinate initiatives.

25 (2) Facilitating collaborations between Israeli and Californian
26 entrepreneurs and researchers through the California innovation
27 hub network.

28 (3) Supporting and encouraging further development of
29 interpersonal contacts and exchanges and to promote mutual
30 cooperation, understanding, and friendship by encouraging ad hoc
31 task forces, trade delegations, and professional exchanges between
32 Israel and California in key sectors.

33 (4) Creating of public-private partnerships between Californian
34 and Israeli entities in the areas of economic development, social
35 entrepreneurship, or academic research.

36 (5) Strengthening sister city programs.

37 (6) Facilitating collaboration between universities in California
38 and Israel to foster research and development; now, therefore, be
39 it

1 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
 2 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby supports the
 3 memorandum of understanding for strategic partnerships for joint
 4 innovation, exchanges, and cooperation between California and
 5 Israel; and be it further

6 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
 7 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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10 **CORRECTIONS:**

11 **Heading—Coauthors—Line 2.**

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