

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 30, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 121

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 amended, Block. Trade: Israel: memorandum of understanding.

This measure would state the Legislature's support for the memorandum of understanding for *establishing* 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)

1 for strategic partnerships for joint innovation, exchanges, and
2 cooperation between California and Israel; and

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Collaboration with Israel will foster peace and
22 democracy in the Middle East; and

23 WHEREAS, To achieve these aims, the MOU envisions
24 undertaking the following actions:

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

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

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

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

38 (5) Strengthening sister city programs.

1 (6) Facilitating collaboration between universities in California
2 and Israel to foster research and development; now, therefore, be
3 it

4 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
5 *thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby supports the*
6 *memorandum of understanding for establishing strategic*
7 *partnerships for between California and Israel that support joint*
8 *innovation, innovation in clean technologies, water conservation,*
9 *health, biotechnology, cybersecurity, education, agricultural*
10 *technology, research, and other informational exchanges, and*
11 *cooperation between California and Israel that also promote mutual*
12 *cooperation, understanding, and friendship by encouraging trade*
13 *delegations and collaboration on mutual projects and issues of*
14 *interest; and be it further*

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