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**Introduced by Senators Block, Allen, Hertzberg, Jackson, Leno,  
Stone, and Wolk**

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Bloom, Levine, Linder,  
Medina, Nazarian, and Thurmond)

March 5, 2015

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 25—Relative to the memorandum  
of understanding between Israel and California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 25, 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, The California Legislature recognizes the many  
2 ties that inexorably bind the State of California to the nation of  
3 Israel; and  
4 WHEREAS, Two-way trade between Israel and California  
5 totaled over \$4.2 billion in 2014—one of the largest two-way trade  
6 relationships between Israel and a state of the United States; and  
7 WHEREAS, California and Israel share close ties and are global  
8 leaders in the alternative energy, environmental technology, and  
9 other technology-based industry sectors; and  
10 WHEREAS, California is home to the largest in-state innovation  
11 network in the United States, which offers  
12 technology-commercialization opportunities for Israel; and

1 WHEREAS, March, 5, 2015, marks the one year anniversary  
2 of the historic meeting at which the Governor of California and  
3 the Prime Minister of Israel signed a memorandum of  
4 understanding (MOU) for strategic partnerships for joint  
5 innovation, exchanges, and cooperation between California and  
6 Israel; and

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

13 WHEREAS, The participants in this MOU seek to expand the  
14 current level of cooperation between Israel and California in areas  
15 including, but not limited to, alternative energy, environmental  
16 technology, health, food and agriculture, and other  
17 technology-based industry sectors, business innovation, research,  
18 development, and academia; and

19 WHEREAS, The unfettered collaboration between Israeli and  
20 California universities will benefit multiple disciplines and  
21 enhances the academic experience of the faculty and students of  
22 both countries; and

23 WHEREAS, The MOU will also establish a formal relationship  
24 between the two parties to foster economic cooperation and  
25 economic development, facilitate joint industrial research and  
26 development, and enhance business relationships and educational  
27 opportunities between all Israeli universities and all California  
28 universities to foster job creation and incubate global solutions  
29 from joint California-Israel innovation initiatives; and

30 WHEREAS, Collaboration with Israel will foster peace and  
31 democracy in the Middle East; and

32 WHEREAS, To achieve these aims, the MOU envisions  
33 undertaking the following actions: convening bilateral, interagency  
34 working groups with international expertise to coordinate  
35 initiatives; facilitating collaborations between Israeli and  
36 Californian entrepreneurs and researchers through the California  
37 innovation hub network; supporting and encouraging further  
38 development of interpersonal contacts and exchanges and  
39 promoting mutual cooperation, understanding, and friendship by  
40 encouraging ad hoc task forces, trade delegations, and professional

1 exchanges between Israel and California in key sectors; creating  
2 public-private partnerships between Californian and Israeli entities  
3 in the areas of economic development, social entrepreneurship,  
4 and academic research; strengthening the sister city program; and  
5 facilitating collaboration between universities in California and  
6 Israel to foster research and development; now, therefore, be it

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

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