

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 30, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 25

**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

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 25, as amended, 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

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, *Two additional agreements have been signed with*
23 *the assistance of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic*
24 *Development (GO-Biz). The first agreement being an agreement*
25 *between GO-Biz and Israel to add an economic component to the*
26 *bilateral partnership and a second agreement between the*
27 *California Institute of Regenerative Medicine and Israel's Ministry*
28 *of Economy to facilitate matching grants for stem cell research*
29 *and development; and*

30 WHEREAS, *A cybersecurity strategic plan was developed*
31 *between Israel and California to explore government to government*
32 *high level security discussions on responding to targeted attacks,*
33 *gaining access to California or Israel markets and workforce*
34 *development projects; and*

35 WHEREAS, *Israeli water experts met with California elected*
36 *officials, regional and local water managers, as well as water*
37 *management experts from the Central Valley; and*

38 WHEREAS, The unfettered collaboration between Israeli and
39 California universities *has and* will benefit multiple disciplines

1 and enhances the academic experience of the faculty and students
2 ~~of both countries from Israel and California~~; and

3 *WHEREAS, The Rady School of Management at the University*
4 *of California, San Diego, and the David Nazarian College of*
5 *Business and Economics at California State University, Northridge,*
6 *continue to lead California's collaboration with Israeli*
7 *universities; and*

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

16 WHEREAS, Collaboration with Israel will foster peace and
17 democracy in the Middle East; and

18 WHEREAS, To achieve these aims, the MOU envisions
19 undertaking the following actions: convening bilateral, interagency
20 working groups with international expertise to coordinate
21 initiatives; facilitating collaborations between Israeli and
22 ~~Californian~~ *California* entrepreneurs and researchers through the
23 California innovation hub network; supporting and encouraging
24 further development of interpersonal contacts and exchanges and
25 promoting mutual cooperation, understanding, and friendship by
26 encouraging ad hoc task forces, trade delegations, and professional
27 exchanges between Israel and California in key sectors; creating
28 public-private partnerships between Californian and Israeli entities
29 in the areas of economic development, social entrepreneurship,
30 and academic research; strengthening the sister city program; and
31 facilitating collaboration between universities in California and
32 Israel to foster research and development; now, therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
34 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby supports the
35 memorandum of understanding for establishing strategic
36 partnerships between California and Israel that support joint
37 innovation in clean technologies, water conservation, health,
38 biotechnology, cybersecurity, education, agricultural technology,
39 research, and other informational exchanges, and that also promote
40 mutual cooperation, understanding, and friendship by encouraging

- 1 trade delegations and collaboration on mutual projects and issues
- 2 of interest; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 4 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.