

Introduced by Senator Strickland

June 28, 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 117—Relative to the defense of Israel.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 117, as introduced, Strickland. Defense of Israel.

This measure would declare California's support of Israel's actions defending its blockade of the Gaza Strip on May 31, 2010, and its authority to protect itself.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On May 31, 2010, Israeli soldiers boarded a ship,
2 the Mavi Marmara, that was part of a flotilla attempting to break
3 a blockade of the Gaza Strip; and

4 WHEREAS, Israel's blockade is acknowledged by the United
5 States as necessary and legal, given the control of Gaza by Hamas;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Hamas is recognized by the United States as a
8 terrorist organization, and has illegally seized control of Gaza from
9 the duly-elected government, has repeatedly attacked Israel,
10 kidnapped and holds hostage Israeli corporal Gilad Shalit, and is
11 committed to the destruction of Israel; and

12 WHEREAS, The flotilla's primary aim was not humanitarian
13 relief, but to cause a provocation as evidenced by the flotilla
14 organizers' announcements weeks in advance that they would
15 resist Israeli forces trying to peacefully enforce the Gaza blockade;
16 and

1 WHEREAS, The main organizer of the flotilla was the Turkish
2 Humanitarian Relief Foundation, which has publicly affirmed its
3 links to Hamas, is reported to have ties to other terrorist
4 organizations such as Al Qaeda, and is part of an umbrella
5 organization that has been designated as a terrorist organization
6 by the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, The Israeli Navy worked hard to peacefully
8 intercept the ships, successfully bringing five of the six ships to
9 Israel's Ashdod Port without any incident; and

10 WHEREAS, On the Mavi Marmara, Israeli soldiers encountered
11 intense violence from some of the radicals and were significantly
12 outnumbered; and

13 WHEREAS, A country may impose and enforce an embargo
14 on international waters during wartime; and

15 WHEREAS, Israel's detention of the flotilla ships, and its use
16 of force to defend its soldiers when they were attacked by some
17 of the radicals, is acceptable under international law; and

18 WHEREAS, Israel has a legitimate right to self-defense and has
19 good cause to inspect cargo going into Gaza, given that Hamas
20 calls for Israel's destruction and is in a state of war with Israel;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Israel has announced the establishment of a
23 commission, including two foreign observers, one from Canada
24 and the other, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, from Ireland, which
25 will investigate the Gaza flotilla incident; and

26 WHEREAS, Israel allows approximately 15,000 tons of supplies
27 to enter Gaza on a daily basis and has allowed over one million
28 tons of humanitarian supplies to enter Gaza from Israel over the
29 past 18 months; and

30 WHEREAS, Thousands of Californians gathered at a rally in
31 Los Angeles on June 6, 2010 to support Israel and to protest the
32 unfair international criticism of Israel for enforcing the Gaza
33 blockade; and

34 WHEREAS, Like every country in the world, Israel has the right
35 to defend itself; now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
37 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature declares California's
38 support of Israel's actions defending its blockade of the Gaza Strip
39 on May 31, 2010, and its authority to protect itself; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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