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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN
STATE OF ISRAEL AND REAFFIRMING THE BONDS OF CLOSE FRIENDSHIP AND
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL

Introduced By: Senator Leonidas P. Raptakis

Date Introduced: April 27, 2023

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to
2 partition the British Mandate of Palestine and create a Jewish state; and

3 WHEREAS, On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the
4 sovereign and independent State of Israel, and the United States Government established full
5 diplomatic relations with Israel; and

6 WHEREAS, The desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent modern State of
7 Israel is an outgrowth of the existence of the historic kingdom of Israel established in the Land of
8 Israel 3,000 years ago, with the City of Jerusalem as its capital; and

9 WHEREAS, For over 2,000 years, there has been continuous Jewish presence and
10 residence in the land comprising the modern State of Israel; and

11 WHEREAS, The establishment of the modern State of Israel as a homeland for the
12 Jewish people followed the slaughter of more than 6,000,000 European Jews during the
13 Holocaust; and

14 WHEREAS, Since its establishment 75 years ago, the modern State of Israel has rebuilt a
15 nation, forged a new and dynamic democratic society, and created a thriving economic, political,
16 cultural, and intellectual life despite the heavy costs of war, terrorism, and unjustified diplomatic
17 and economic boycotts against the people of Israel; and

18 WHEREAS, The people of Israel have established a vibrant, pluralistic, democratic
19 political system, including freedom of speech, association, and religion; a vigorously free press;

1 free, fair and open elections; the rule of law; a fully independent judiciary; and other democratic
2 principles and practices; and

3 WHEREAS, Israel has developed some of the leading universities in the world, and
4 thirteen Israeli citizens have been awarded the Nobel Prize; and

5 WHEREAS, Israel has developed an advanced, entrepreneurial economy, is among the
6 world's leaders in the high-tech industry, and is at the forefront of research and development in
7 the field of renewable energy sources; and

8 WHEREAS, Israel regularly sends humanitarian aid, search-and-rescue teams, mobile
9 hospitals, and other emergency supplies, to help victims of disasters around the world, including
10 the 1994 Rwandan civil war, the 1998 bombing of the United States Embassy in Kenya, the 1999
11 earthquakes in Turkey, the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 hurricanes along the southern
12 coast of the United States, and the 2007 fires in Greece; and

13 WHEREAS, Israel has absorbed millions of Jews from countries throughout the world
14 and fully integrated them into Israeli society; and

15 WHEREAS, Israel has bravely defended itself from repeated terrorist and military attacks
16 since its independence; and

17 WHEREAS, Successive leaders of Israel have sought to achieve peace with Israel's Arab
18 neighbors; and

19 WHEREAS, Israel has established peaceful bilateral relations with neighboring Egypt
20 and Jordan and has made its desire to establish peaceful relations with all Arab states abundantly
21 clear; and

22 WHEREAS, For more than seven and a half decades, the United States and Israel have
23 maintained a special relationship based on mutually shared democratic values, common strategic
24 interests, and moral bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

25 WHEREAS, The American people feel a strong affinity for the Israeli people based on
26 common values and shared cultural heritage; and

27 WHEREAS, The United States continues to regard Israel as a strong and trusted ally and
28 an important strategic partner; now, therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby recognizes the historic
30 significance of the 75th Anniversary of the reestablishment of the sovereign and independent
31 State of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people, and extends the warmest congratulations and
32 best wishes to the State of Israel and the Israeli people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful
33 future; and be it further

34 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby reaffirms the bonds of friendship and co-operation

1 which have existed between the United States and Israel for more than 75 years, and commits to
2 strengthening those bonds. We reaffirm our enduring support for Israel as Israel pursues peace
3 with its neighbors and supports Israel's right to defend itself against threats to its security and
4 existence. We furthermore commend the people of Israel for their remarkable achievements in
5 building a new state and a pluralistic, democratic society in the face of terrorism, as well as
6 hostility, ostracism, and belligerence from many of their neighbors; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to members of the Rhode Island Congressional
9 Delegation and Meron Reuben, Consul General of Israel to New England.

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