

2016 -- S 3001

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

S E N A T E R E S O L U T I O N

**CELEBRATING AND COMMEMORATING THE 68TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S
INDEPENDENCE DAY ON THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016**

Introduced By: Senators Goldin, Miller, Walaska, Raptakis, and Paiva Weed

Date Introduced: May 12, 2016

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, May 12, 2016, the 4th day of Iyar, 5776, of the Hebrew calendar, marks the
2 68th Anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel; and

3 WHEREAS, The desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent modern State of
4 Israel is the outgrowth of the existence of the historic Kingdom of Israel established three
5 thousand years ago in the city of Jerusalem and in the land of Israel; and

6 WHEREAS, On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to
7 partition the British Mandate of Palestine and, through that vote, to create the State of Israel; and

8 WHEREAS, Three years after the end of World War II and the death of six million Jews
9 in the Holocaust, David Ben Gurion's Declaration of Independence for Israel, made on May 14,
10 1948, fulfilled a spiritual yearning that had remained unrealized for over two millennia; and

11 WHEREAS, On the day that the British formally ended its Mandate over Palestine, the
12 Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel was signed by members of the National
13 Council gathered at the Tel Aviv Museum and went into effect at midnight. Thus, the State of
14 Israel was proclaimed and the United States recognized and established full diplomatic relations
15 with Israel that same day; and

16 WHEREAS, The United States has played a critical role in the development of Israel and
17 has been steadfast in its commitment to helping the people of Israel develop their own economy
18 and secure their own peace. President Harry S. Truman, the first head of state to grant Israel
19 diplomatic recognition, expressed its special place in the hearts of Americans when he declared,

1 "I had faith in Israel before it was established, and I have faith in it now. I believe it has a glorious
2 future before it--not just another sovereign nation, but as an embodiment of the great ideals of our
3 civilization"; and

4 WHEREAS, In May of 1948, Israel had a tiny population of some 650,000 Jews. Today,
5 with a population more than ten times larger, the State of Israel has a stronger economy and
6 military than its founders ever envisioned. It has built a thriving economy larger than the
7 economies of all its immediate neighbors combined and it excels in science, technology, and
8 culture; and

9 WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders have shared an affinity with the people of Israel and our
10 partnership is steadfast. The bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between
11 Israel and Rhode Island for the past sixty-eight years have enriched the cultural diversity of our
12 state's tapestry and they are eternal; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
14 hereby applauds one of the most vibrant democracies in history on the 68th Anniversary of its
15 founding and extends our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and her
16 people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby seeks to strengthen its State-to-State relationship
18 and public and private cooperation with the State of Israel, its government, business sector,
19 educational institutions, civil society, and person-to-person exchanges to promote mutual respect
20 between all the people of Israel and the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
22 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Marty Cooper, Community Relations Director
23 of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, and Yahuda Yaakov, Consul General of Israel.

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