

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY SENATOR HODGES

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Louisiana's Jewish-Americans on their contributions to the state and nation, recognizes Jewish-American Heritage Month, and encourages observance of Shabbat on May 15-16, 2026, as a time of prayer, reflection, gratitude, and thanksgiving to Almighty God in celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our nation.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Louisiana's Jewish-American citizens for their contributions to the state and  
3 nation, to recognize May 2026 as Jewish-American Heritage Month in Louisiana,  
4 and to join with other states in encouraging Christians and persons of all faith  
5 traditions to join with their Jewish neighbors in observing a Shabbat from sundown  
6 on May 15, 2026, through nightfall on May 16, 2026, as a time of prayer, reflection,  
7 gratitude, and thanksgiving to Almighty God in celebration of the upcoming 250th  
8 anniversary of the United States.

9 WHEREAS, on May 4, 2026, President Donald J. Trump issued a proclamation  
10 recognizing May 2026 as Jewish-American Heritage Month; calling upon the nation, in  
11 anticipation of the 250th anniversary of the United States of America, to observe a national  
12 Shabbat from sundown on May 15, 2026, through nightfall on May 16, 2026, as a time of  
13 prayer, reflection, rest, gratitude, and thanksgiving to Almighty God, and as an opportunity  
14 for families and communities to gather in recognition of the blessings of faith, freedom, and  
15 national unity; and

16 WHEREAS, Jewish-Americans have contributed immeasurably to the cultural,  
17 economic, scientific, educational, military, and civic development of the United States since  
18 the founding of the nation; and

1           WHEREAS, among the early patriots who supported the cause of American liberty  
2 and independence was Haym Salomon, a Jewish patriot and financier who played a critical  
3 role in supporting the Continental Congress and aiding the Revolutionary War effort through  
4 financial services and personal sacrifice, helping to sustain the cause of liberty during the  
5 nation's founding struggle for freedom; and

6           WHEREAS, President George Washington, in his historic 1790 letter to the Hebrew  
7 Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, articulated one of the enduring principles of  
8 American religious liberty, declaring that the United States "gives to bigotry no sanction, to  
9 persecution no assistance," a statement that continues to reflect the nation's commitment to  
10 religious freedom and equal protection under the law for all people; and

11           WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is enriched by Jewish citizens and institutions that  
12 have contributed to the arts, business, medicine, law, education, charitable endeavors, public  
13 leadership, and the preservation of religious liberty throughout the state's history; and

14           WHEREAS, Christians acknowledge with gratitude the enduring witness and  
15 heritage of the Jewish people, through whom the Scriptures were preserved and through  
16 whose long historical experience and testimony the broader principles of faith, religious  
17 identity, and religious liberty have been strengthened and advanced; and

18           WHEREAS, Israel and in particular Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria are historically  
19 and Biblically significant regions of Israel that hold profound religious and cultural  
20 importance in the shared heritage of Judaism and Christianity and are among the principal  
21 places where the Holy Bible records many events of the Hebrew prophets and the life and  
22 ministry of Jesus Christ; and

23           WHEREAS, the enduring influence of Israel, and especially Jerusalem, Judea, and  
24 Samaria, is reflected throughout Louisiana and the United States in the names of  
25 communities, churches, religious institutions, and places inspired by the history, geography,  
26 and traditions of the Holy Land and our shared Judeo-Christian heritage; and

27           WHEREAS, May is nationally recognized as Jewish-American Heritage Month, first  
28 proclaimed in 2006 and observed annually to celebrate the accomplishments and heritage  
29 of Jewish Americans; and

30           WHEREAS, in further recognition of Jewish-American Heritage Month and in

