

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Israel upon the 65th anniversary of her independence, recognizes the contributions of Israel to humankind, and expresses support for the people of Israel and for their right to live in freedom and to defend themselves

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Israel upon the sixty-fifth anniversary of her independence, to recognize the
3 cordial and mutually beneficial relationship between Israel and the state of Louisiana
4 and the contributions of Israel to humankind, and to express support for the people
5 of Israel and for their right to defend themselves and to live in freedom.

6 WHEREAS, the land of Israel is the birthplace of the Jewish people, where their
7 spiritual, religious, and national identity has been formed, where they have achieved
8 independence, and where they have created a culture of national and universal significance;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob promised in Genesis 12:3 to bless
11 those who bless Israel through the promise He made to Abraham: "And I will bless them
12 that bless thee, and curse them that curseth thee: and in thee shall all the families of the earth
13 be blessed"; and

14 WHEREAS, the claim and presence of the Jewish people in Israel has remained
15 constant throughout more than three thousand years of history; and

16 WHEREAS, when exiled from Israel, the Jewish people remained faithful to Israel
17 in all the countries of their dispersion, never ceasing to pray and hope for their return and
18 the restoration of their national freedom; and

19 WHEREAS, the legal basis for the establishment of the modern state of Israel was
20 a binding resolution under International Law, which was unanimously adopted by the

1 League of Nations in 1922 and subsequently affirmed by both houses of the United States
2 Congress; and

3 WHEREAS, the resolution affirmed the establishment of a national home for the
4 Jewish people in the historical region of the land of Israel, including the areas of Judea,
5 Samaria, and Jerusalem; and

6 WHEREAS, Article 80 of the United Nations charter recognizes the continued
7 validity of the rights granted to states or peoples which already existed under international
8 instruments; therefore, the 1922 League of Nations resolution remains valid, and the six
9 hundred fifty thousand Jews currently residing in the areas of Judea, Samaria, and eastern
10 Jerusalem reside there legitimately; and

11 WHEREAS, under the leadership of David Ben-Gurion, the modern State of Israel
12 was established on May 14, 1948, and Israel has had to defend herself and her right to exist
13 since her founding; and

14 WHEREAS, Israel declares that she will be based on the precepts of liberty, justice,
15 and peace taught by the Hebrew prophets; will uphold the full social and political equality
16 of all her citizens, without distinction of race, creed, or sex; and will guarantee full freedom
17 of conscience, worship, education, and culture; and

18 WHEREAS, Israel is the foremost leader in the Middle East and a shining example
19 for the rest of the world relative to the recognition of the basic equality and dignity of
20 women, providing full and equal opportunities for women to vote, hold elected office, own
21 property, and pursue and engage in any occupation, profession, or trade; and

22 WHEREAS, Israel is a great friend and ally of the United States in the Middle East,
23 and 2010 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United States-Israel Free Trade
24 Agreement, which was the first free trade agreement entered into by the United States; it
25 continues to serve as the foundation for expanding trade and investment between the United
26 States and Israel by reducing barriers and promoting regulatory transparency; and

27 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana and Israel have long enjoyed a special friendship
28 that strengthens with each passing year; and

29 WHEREAS, Israel and Louisiana also have strong economic ties, and numerous
30 Louisiana companies have experienced the benefits of doing business with Israel; and

1 WHEREAS, exports sustain thousands of Louisiana businesses, and foreign
2 investment creates Louisiana jobs; the tradition of trade between Israel and Louisiana
3 remains strong and has a positive impact on both economies; and

4 WHEREAS, in 2012, Louisiana ranked sixth in the United States for merchandise
5 exports to Israel, according to the United States Department of Commerce, with more than
6 two hundred ninety-two million exports to Israel; also in 2012, Louisiana had nearly fifty-
7 two million merchandise imports from Israel; and

8 WHEREAS, in addition to the strong economic ties between Israel and Louisiana,
9 the people of Israel and Louisiana have a rich history of shared values and mutual interests,
10 and government officials from Louisiana have visited Israel on numerous occasions,
11 furthering collaboration and cooperation; and

12 WHEREAS, the people of Israel have been persecuted throughout history, and there
13 are still those who express a strong desire for the destruction of Israel, which faces continued
14 threats to her safety; and

15 WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend and congratulate the people of Israel upon
16 the memorable and historic occasion of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the independence of
17 this great nation, to express support for Israel's freedom and security, and to recognize the
18 genuine and abiding friendship between Israel and the state of Louisiana.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
20 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Israel upon the sixty-fifth anniversary of her
21 independence, does hereby recognize the cordial and mutually beneficial relationship
22 between Israel and the state of Louisiana and the contributions of Israel to humankind, and
23 does hereby express support for the people of Israel and for their right to defend themselves
24 and live in freedom.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
26 to Ambassador Meir Shlomo, Consul General of Israel to the Southwest, and to Dr. Michael
27 B. Oren, Ambassador of Israel to the United States.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Hodges

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