

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DR SJR15246-LG-688A\* (5/12)**

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Sponsors: Senators Weinstein, and Hagan.

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Referred to:

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1 A JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
2 FOUNDING OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND REAFFIRMING BONDS OF  
3 FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE STATE OF NORTH  
4 CAROLINA AND ISRAEL.

5       Whereas, on May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment  
6 of the sovereign and independent modern State of Israel as a successor and outgrowth of  
7 the historic kingdom of Israel with the city of Jerusalem as its capital, and the United  
8 States government established full diplomatic relations with Israel; and

9       Whereas, since its establishment 60 years ago, the modern State of Israel has  
10 rebuilt a nation, forged a new and dynamic democratic society, and created a thriving  
11 economic, political, cultural and intellectual life, despite the heavy costs of war,  
12 terrorism, and unjustified economic and diplomatic boycotts against the people of Israel;  
13 and

14       Whereas, the people of Israel have established a vibrant, pluralistic,  
15 democratic political system, including freedom of speech, press, assembly, and religion;  
16 a vigorously free press; free, fair, and open elections; the rule of law and a fully  
17 independent judiciary; and

18       Whereas, Israel has developed some of the leading universities in the world  
19 and 8 Israeli citizens have been awarded the Nobel Prize; and

20       Whereas, Israel has developed an advanced, entrepreneurial economy, is a  
21 global leader in the high-tech industry, and is at the forefront of research and  
22 development in the field of renewable energy sources; and

23       Whereas, North Carolina has exported over \$1 billion in goods and services  
24 to Israel since 1996, including over \$155 million in 2007; and

25       Whereas, Israel ranks as North Carolina's 27<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner in total  
26 annual trade; and

27       Whereas, over \$8 million in Bi-National Agricultural and Science Foundation  
28 research grants have been shared by North Carolina and Israel administered by the

1 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Wake Forest University, Duke University,  
2 and North Carolina State University designed to fight hunger, increase crop, poultry,  
3 and fish production, fight cancer, and improve health care through genetic and  
4 cardiovascular research among a host of other projects; and

5       Whereas, Israel has absorbed millions of Jewish refugees from the former  
6 Soviet Union, Ethiopia, the Middle East, North Africa, and other countries throughout  
7 the world and fully integrated them into Israeli society; and

8       Whereas, Israel has established peaceful bilateral relations with Egypt and  
9 Jordan and has expressed its desire to establish peaceful relations with all Arab states  
10 and the Palestinian people living in the West Bank and Gaza; and

11       Whereas, for six decades, the United States and Israel have maintained a  
12 special relationship based on mutually shared democratic values, common strategic  
13 interests, and moral bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

14       Whereas, it is also fitting and proper to honor the memory of the thousands of  
15 Israelis who have died defending Israel's existence since 1948, including Yonathan  
16 Netanyahu, one of Israel's greatest soldiers and heroes, who died leading the daring raid  
17 and successful rescue of Israeli citizens hijacked by terrorists to Entebbe, Uganda, on  
18 July 4, 1976, demonstrating Israel's commitment to the sanctity of life and protection of  
19 the Jewish people; Now, therefore,

20 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

21       **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly recognizes the historic significance of  
22 the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reestablishment of the sovereign and independent State of  
23 Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people and reaffirms its enduring support for Israel  
24 as Israel pursues peace with its neighbors.

25       **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly commends the people of Israel for their  
26 remarkable achievements in building a new nation and a pluralistic, democratic society  
27 in the face of terrorism as well as hostility, ostracism, and belligerence from other  
28 nations and looks forward to increased trade and enhanced economic, scientific, cultural  
29 and educational cooperation for the mutual benefit and prosperity of the citizens of  
30 North Carolina and the people of Israel.

31       **SECTION 3.** The General Assembly extends the warmest congratulations  
32 and best wishes to the State of Israel and the Israeli people for a peaceful, secure, and  
33 successful future.

34       **SECTION 4.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Yonathan  
35 Netanyahu and those who died defending Israel's existence.

36       **SECTION 5.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
37 resolution to the Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council.

38       **SECTION 6.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.