

15105504D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 659
FLOOR AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by Senator Ebbin
on February 25, 2015)
(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Pogge)

Commending the State of Israel.

WHEREAS, the Jewish people have a long-standing connection to the land of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the claim and presence of the Jewish people in Israel has remained constant throughout the past 4,000 years; and

WHEREAS, Israel declared its independence and self-governance on May 14, 1948, with the goal of reestablishing a homeland for the Jewish people; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel issued on May 14, 1948, declares the nation "will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants regardless of religion, race or sex"; and

WHEREAS, the United States, having been the first nation to recognize Israel as an independent nation and as Israel's principal ally, has enjoyed a close and mutually beneficial relationship with Israel and her people; and

WHEREAS, Israel is the greatest friend and ally of the United States in the Middle East, and the two countries enjoy strong bonds and common values; and

WHEREAS, there are those in the Middle East who, since the time of Israel's inception as a state, have continually sought to destroy Israel; and

WHEREAS, Israel and the United States have similar goals of democracy and stability in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia and Israel have enjoyed a cordial and mutually beneficial relationship since 1948, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each passing year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the State of Israel; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly commend the State of Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States and with the Commonwealth of Virginia, and express support for the State of Israel for its legal, historical, and moral right of self-governance and self-defense upon its lands; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly hereby recognize that Israel is a democratic state that must defend itself against hostile neighbors and that peace can be afforded in the region only through combined efforts and trust; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to Ralph Robbins, executive director of the Virginia-Israel Advisory Board, Robert G. Sugarman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, and Michael D. Siegal, chairman of the Jewish Federation of North America Board of Trustees, requesting that they further disseminate copies of this resolution to their respective constituents so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

HJ659S2