

15101883D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 659

Offered January 15, 2015

Encouraging support for the State of Israel.

Patrons—Pogge, Berg, Cole, Fariss, Fowler, Howell, Kilgore, Landes, LaRock, Marshall, D.W.,
McQuinn, Minchew, Morris, Peace, Pillion, Spruill and Wright; Senators: Carrico, Garrett, Reeves,
Ruff and Stanley

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people and, despite the Jewish exile,
the land has remained the place where the religious, spiritual, and national identity of the State of Israel
was formed; and

WHEREAS, Israel has been granted its lands under and through the oldest recorded deed, the Old
Testament, a tome of scripture held sacred and revered by Jews and Christians as presenting the acts and
words of God; and

WHEREAS, as the grantor of those lands, God stated to the Jewish people in Leviticus 20:24, "Ye
shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and
honey"; and

WHEREAS, the legal basis for the establishment of the State of Israel was a binding resolution
under international law, which was unanimously adopted by the League of Nations in 1922 and
subsequently affirmed by both houses of the United States Congress; and

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

WHEREAS, Article 80 of the Charter of the United Nations recognized the continued validity of the
rights granted to states or peoples that already existed under international instruments; therefore, the
1922 League of Nations resolution is still valid, and the thousands of Jews currently residing in the
areas of Judea, Samaria, and eastern Jerusalem reside there legitimately; and

WHEREAS, the State of Israel declared its independent control and governance of those lands on
May 14, 1948, with the goal of reestablishing its God-given lands as a homeland for the Jewish people;
and

WHEREAS, the United States was the first country to recognize Israel as an independent nation in
1948; and

WHEREAS, the State of Israel is the greatest friend and ally of the United States in the Middle East,
and the values and destinies of both countries are inseparable; and

WHEREAS, the State of Israel and the Commonwealth of Virginia have enjoyed cordial and
mutually beneficial relations since 1948, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each passing year;
and

WHEREAS, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob promises in Genesis 12:3 "to bless those that
bless Israel"; and

WHEREAS, United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) recognized Israel's "right to live
in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force"; and

WHEREAS, there are those in the Middle East who have continually sought to destroy Israel from
the time of its inception as a state, and those enemies also abhor and desire the destruction of the
United States; and

WHEREAS, today, Israel faces continued threats to its safety and security from Iran and other
Middle Eastern countries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That support for the State of Israel
be encouraged; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the cordial and mutually beneficial relationship between the
Commonwealth of Virginia, the United States, and the State of Israel be encouraged; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the State of Israel has the right to live in peace and to defend itself,
that Israel be recognized as neither an attacking force nor an occupier of the lands of others, and that
peace can be achieved in the Middle East region only through a whole and united Israel governed under
one law for all people; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the State of Israel's legal, historical, moral, and God-given right of
self-governance and self-defense throughout the entirety of its land be supported; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution
to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the United States Secretary of

INTRODUCED

HJ659

57 Defense, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States
58 Senate, the Virginia Congressional Delegation, and Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu,
59 requesting that they further disseminate copies of this resolution to their respective constituents so that
60 they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.