

**2018 -- H 8103**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018**

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**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S ESTABLISHMENT AND  
REAFFIRMING THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN RHODE  
ISLAND, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL**

Introduced By: Representatives Ackerman, Mattiello, Shekarchi, Knight, and Regunberg

Date Introduced: April 24, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to  
2 partition British Mandatory Palestine into a Jewish state and Arab state, a decision welcomed by  
3 Jewish leadership and rejected by the Arab world; and

4           WHEREAS, On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the  
5 sovereign and independent State of Israel, and the United States government established full  
6 diplomatic relations after Israel's first election in 1949; and

7           WHEREAS, The desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent modern State of  
8 Israel is directly linked to the existence of the historic kingdom of Israel established in the land of  
9 Israel 3,000 years ago, with the City of Jerusalem as its capital both then and now; and

10           WHEREAS, For over 2,000 years, Jews living in other parts of the world maintained a  
11 profound spiritual and emotional connection to the Land of Israel, and there has been continuous  
12 Jewish presence in the land comprising the modern State of Israel; and

13           WHEREAS, The establishment of the modern State of Israel as a homeland for the  
14 Jewish people followed the destruction of much of European Jewry during the Holocaust; and

15           WHEREAS, Since its establishment 70 years ago, the modern State of Israel has rebuilt  
16 the nation, forged a new and dynamic society, and created a thriving economic, political, cultural,  
17 and intellectual life despite the heavy burdens of war, terrorism, and unjustified diplomatic and  
18 economic boycotts against the people of Israel; and

19           WHEREAS, The people of Israel, in the spirit of Israel's Declaration of Independence,

1 have established a vibrant, pluralistic, democratic political system, which includes freedom of  
2 speech, association, and religion; a vigorously free press; free, fair and open elections; the rule of  
3 law; a fully independent judiciary; and other democratic principles and practices; and

4 WHEREAS, Israel has developed some of the world's leading universities, has an  
5 advanced, entrepreneurial economy, is among the world's leaders of the high-tech industry, and is  
6 at the forefront of research and development in the fields of renewable energy sources and  
7 medicine; and

8 WHEREAS, Israel regularly sends humanitarian aid, search and rescue teams, mobile  
9 hospitals, and other emergency supplies, to help victims of disasters around the world; and

10 WHEREAS, Israel has taken in millions of Jews from countries throughout the world and  
11 sought to fully integrate them into Israeli society; and

12 WHEREAS, Israel has established peaceful bilateral relations with Egypt and Jordan and  
13 has sought to achieve a secure peace with the Palestinians and Israel's other Arab neighbors; and

14 WHEREAS, For seven decades, Rhode Island, the United States, and Israel have  
15 maintained a special relationship based on mutually shared democratic and moral values,  
16 common strategic interests, and bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

17 WHEREAS, The American people and the people of Rhode Island feel a strong affinity  
18 for the Israeli people based on common values and shared cultural heritage; and

19 WHEREAS, The United States and Rhode Island continue to regard Israel as a trusted  
20 ally and vital strategic partner in the volatile Middle East; now, therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That this House of Representative of the State of Rhode Island and  
22 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes the historic significance of the 70th Anniversary of the  
23 reestablishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish  
24 people; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That this House hereby reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation  
26 which have existed between Rhode Island, the United States, and Israel for the past 70 years, and  
27 commits to strengthening those bonds; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
29 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mr. Adam Greenman, President and CEO of  
30 the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and Yehuda Yaakov, Consul General of Israel.

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