

By: Senator(s) Lee (35th), Hewes, Fillingane, Flowers, Mettetal, Davis (1st), Carmichael, Clarke, King, Moffatt, Yancey, Hyde-Smith, Burton, Dearing, Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 653

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND
2 HISTORICAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND ISRAEL
3 ON THE OCCASION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
4 THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL AND TO ENCOURAGE TRADE.

5 WHEREAS, many communities along the Mississippi River were
6 settled by Jewish immigrants from Europe who had entered the
7 United States through the Port of New Orleans. These families
8 were leading members of the business communities of these river
9 cities, made considerable civic and charitable contributions and
10 became part of the fabric of these important economic centers; and

11 WHEREAS, there is a special bond of friendship between the
12 citizens of Mississippi and Israel that inspires the people of
13 Mississippi to stand with the people of Israel in solidarity and
14 welcome all opportunities to grow our already deep relationship at
15 all levels, including cultural, academic and business endeavors;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, on May 14, 1948, the 5th day of Iyar, Jewish
18 representatives from all over Palestine met in the Tel Aviv Museum
19 where David Ben-Gurion declared Israel's independence, and in the
20 following 4 months, some 50,000 newcomers, mainly Holocaust
21 survivors, reached Israel's shores; and

22 WHEREAS, May 2008 marks the 60th anniversary of the modern
23 State of Israel; and

24 WHEREAS, during those 60 years, Israel has stood as the only
25 beacon of democracy and freedom in the region and has always been
26 a true friend to the people of Mississippi; and

27 WHEREAS, Israel is a top export destination from Mississippi.
28 Total Mississippi exports to Israel were \$13,103,820 in 2007 (100%



29 increase projected in 2008). Israel is one of Mississippi's top
30 50 trading partners (ranked 47th). Top exports include aircraft,
31 spacecraft equipment and commodities; and

32 WHEREAS, Israel's humanitarian aid to Mississippi after
33 Hurricane Katrina was considerable: Israel sent humanitarian aid
34 to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, airlifting over 80 tons of
35 supplies; Israel dispatched field hospitals, hundreds of doctors
36 and nurses to the Gulf Coast; Magen David Adom (Israel's official
37 part of the Red Cross) established "United Brotherhood Operation,"
38 sending additional supplies and services to the region; and Israel
39 also invited displaced university students to attend Israeli
40 universities; and

41 WHEREAS, Mississippi is proud to be the home of Israeli
42 companies which provide protection for U.S. troops in Iraq. For
43 example, STARK Aerospace builds UAVs for U.S. forces, with offices
44 and production in Columbus and Starkville, Mississippi. It is a
45 subsidiary of Israel Aerospace Industries, Ltd., which makes
46 Hunter UAV models with 20,000+ operation hours in Iraq and
47 Afghanistan; and

48 WHEREAS, Mississippi defends Israeli citizens from missile
49 attacks through the Arrow Interceptor missile which is made in
50 Mississippi; and

51 WHEREAS, Ingalls Shipyard builds ships for the Israeli Navy
52 (including SA'AR 5 Class corvettes) and Israeli ships are used to
53 protect shores from terrorist weapons smuggling and maritime
54 terrorist attacks. The *USS Cole*'s mission is an example of
55 Mississippi supporting Israeli defense; and

56 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Commission on the Holocaust works to
57 draw lessons from the history of the Holocaust in order to help
58 lead new generations of Mississippians beyond racism and bigotry:

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
60 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
61 we do hereby recognize the special historical and economic



62 friendship between Mississippi and Israel and express our
63 appreciation to his Excellency Ambassador Mansour for his tireless
64 efforts to promote peace and grow the business, cultural and
65 educational ties between our two nations.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the members of this Legislature
67 extend congratulations to the people of Israel on the occasion of
68 the 60th anniversary of the modern State of Israel and reaffirm
69 their strong support of the Israeli people and the God-given right
70 of the State of Israel to exist and offer their full support and
71 prayers.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this body hereby encourages
73 further cultural, educational and business exchanges between the
74 citizens of Mississippi and Israel and welcomes all opportunities
75 to develop the special bond of friendship and trade between
76 Mississippi and Israel.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate is
78 authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this
79 resolution to his Excellency Ambassador Mansour and that copies be
80 forwarded to the Mississippi Development Authority, and be made
81 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

