
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 74 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF AND WARD, APRIL 10, 2017

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 10, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President of the United States to honor his pledge to
2 move the United States Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

3 WHEREAS, Each sovereign nation, under international law and
4 custom, may designate its own capital; and

5 WHEREAS, Since 1950, the City of Jerusalem has been the
6 capital of the State of Israel; and

7 WHEREAS, The City of Jerusalem is the seat of Israel's
8 President, Parliament and Supreme Court and the site of numerous
9 government ministries and social and cultural institutions; and

10 WHEREAS, The land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish
11 people; and

12 WHEREAS, Despite Jewish exile, the land of Israel has
13 remained the place where the religious, spiritual and national
14 identity of the State of Israel was formed; and

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

1 WHEREAS, As the grantor of those lands, God stated to the
2 Jewish people in the Old Testament, from Leviticus, Chapter 20,
3 Verse 24: "Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto
4 you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey"; and

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

10 WHEREAS, From 1948 through 1967, Jerusalem was a divided city
11 and Israeli citizens of all faiths as well as Jewish citizens of
12 all states were denied access to holy sites in the area
13 controlled by Jordan; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1967, the City of Jerusalem was reunited during
15 the conflict known as the Six-Day War; and

16 WHEREAS, Since 1967, Jerusalem has been a united city
17 administered by Israel, and persons of all religious faiths have
18 been guaranteed full access to holy sites within the city; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1990, the Congress of the United States
20 unanimously adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 106, which
21 declares that the Congress of the United States "strongly
22 believes that Jerusalem must remain an undivided city in which
23 rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected"; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1992, the United States Senate and House of
25 Representatives unanimously adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution
26 113 of the 102nd Congress to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of
27 the reunification of Jerusalem and to reaffirm congressional
28 sentiment that Jerusalem must remain an undivided city; and

29 WHEREAS, In June 1993, 257 members of the United States House
30 of Representatives signed a letter to the Secretary of State

1 stating that the relocation of the United States Embassy to
2 Jerusalem "should take place no later than ... 1999"; and

3 WHEREAS, In March 1995, 93 members of the United States
4 Senate signed a letter to the Secretary of State encouraging
5 "planning to begin now" for relocation of the United States
6 Embassy to the City of Jerusalem; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States maintains its embassy in the
8 functioning capital of every country except in the case of our
9 democratic friend and strategic ally, the State of Israel; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States conducts official meetings and
11 other business in the City of Jerusalem in de facto recognition
12 of its status as the capital of Israel; and

13 WHEREAS, On October 23, 1995, the Congress of the United
14 States passed the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, which stated
15 that "Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of the State
16 of Israel; and the United States Embassy in Israel should be
17 established in Jerusalem no later than May 31, 1999"; and

18 WHEREAS, The act passed with overwhelming approval in both
19 the Senate and the House of Representatives, with a vote of 93
20 to 5 in the Senate and 374 to 37 in the House of
21 Representatives; and

22 WHEREAS, The act allows the President of the United States to
23 exercise a waiver to suspend the time restriction on the
24 embassy's construction for a six-month period; and

25 WHEREAS, Every President since 1995 has issued waivers at
26 six-month intervals, thus preventing the embassy from being
27 moved; and

28 WHEREAS, One of the promises presidential candidate Donald
29 Trump made during his campaign was that he would move the United
30 States Embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv; and

1 WHEREAS, In March 2016, presidential candidate Donald Trump
2 in a speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee
3 stated that "We will move the American Embassy to the eternal
4 capital of the Jewish people, Jerusalem and we will send a clear
5 signal that there is no daylight between America and our most
6 reliable ally, the State of Israel"; and

7 WHEREAS, On January 3, 2017, several United States Senators
8 introduced legislation, S. 11, the Jerusalem Embassy and
9 Recognition Act, aimed at removing the President's waiver
10 authority and immediately implementing the provisions of the
11 Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 to begin the process of relocating
12 the United States Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem; and

13 WHEREAS, On January 11, 2017, more than 100 members of
14 Congress signed a letter to the President-Elect expressing
15 support for his pledge to move our United States Embassy in
16 Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and urged him to take swift
17 action upon assuming office; and

18 WHEREAS, The letter from congressional members indicated that
19 "moving the embassy will strengthen the unique alliance between
20 Israel and the United States and send a clear message to the
21 world that we support Israel in recognizing Jerusalem as its
22 eternal capital"; and

23 WHEREAS, The letter further states that "this action is all
24 the more urgent in light of the Anti-Israel Resolution 2334,
25 adopted by the United Nations Security Council on December 23,
26 2016. The resolution invites renewed diplomatic hostility and
27 economic warfare against Israel and we must act urgently to
28 mitigate its consequences and to reaffirm our steadfast
29 commitment to Israel"; and

30 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of

1 Israel have a long history of friendship and are great allies in
2 support of each other's interests; and

3 WHEREAS, The State of Israel, the only democracy in the
4 Middle East, is the greatest friend and ally of the United
5 States in the Middle East; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States must recommit itself as an ally to
7 Israel; and

8 WHEREAS, At this time of continued uncertainty in the world,
9 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania reaffirms its desire that the
10 United States of America remain a strong and unequivocal
11 supporter of the State of Israel; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
13 urge the President of the United States to honor his pledge to
14 move the United States Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem; and
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
17 the President of the United States, the presiding officers of
18 each house of Congress and each member of Congress from
19 Pennsylvania.