

1 SJR27
2 197202-4
3 By Senators Orr and Waggoner
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 03-APR-19

8 RECOGNIZING JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL AND
9 AFFIRMING THE U.S. EMBASSY MOVE.
10

11 WHEREAS, in 1943, in the midst of World War II, when
12 the Axis powers were not only waging world war against America
13 and Europe, but also seeking the systematic extermination of
14 the Jewish people, Alabama led the nation with an official
15 call for the establishment of the Jewish state and homeland
16 through a unanimous joint resolution (Act 144, SJR 4, 1943
17 Regular Session) five years before Israel was reborn as a
18 nation; and

19 WHEREAS, in the 75 years since that resolution,
20 Alabama has a long history of strong and steadfast support for
21 the State of Israel; and

22 WHEREAS, Alabama and Israel share a commitment to
23 deeply held common values from the history of each, shaped
24 greatly through the influence of Biblical faith, in addition
25 to many nationally shared values as the only democratic ally
26 of the United States in the Middle East; and

1 WHEREAS, each sovereign nation, under international
2 law and custom, may designate its own capital; and

3 WHEREAS, Jerusalem has been the center of national
4 and spiritual life for the Jewish people since its early days
5 as a nation in biblical times; and

6 WHEREAS, throughout history, and the millennia of
7 its existence, Jerusalem has never been the capital of any
8 other sovereign nation; and

9 WHEREAS, with the establishment of the State of
10 Israel in 1948, Jerusalem became once again the capital of the
11 world's only sovereign Jewish state; and

12 WHEREAS, for 19 years Jerusalem was divided after
13 East Jerusalem - including the Old City - was taken in war,
14 annexed by Jordan, and ruled from its capital, Amman; and

15 WHEREAS, Jerusalem was reunited following the 1967
16 Six-Day War, the barriers dividing the city were demolished,
17 the gates of the Old City were opened to people of all faiths,
18 and East Jerusalem was reunified with West Jerusalem, making
19 whole again the nation's historic capital; and

20 WHEREAS, Israel continues to recognize Jerusalem as
21 its eternal undivided capital; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1995, the U.S. Congress passed the
23 Jerusalem Embassy Act with overwhelming bipartisan support,
24 including a 93-5 margin in the Senate and a 374-37 margin in
25 the House that same day, thereby encoding in U.S. law the
26 recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and requiring the
27 move of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem by 1999; and

1 WHEREAS, succeeding Presidents of both political
2 parties deferred moving the U.S. Embassy, signing temporary
3 waivers every six months, delaying the embassy move for over
4 two decades; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2017, the U.S. Senate (90-0)
6 specifically reaffirmed the 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Act as part
7 of a resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the
8 reunification of Jerusalem; and

9 WHEREAS, it was announced on December 6, 2017, that
10 the United States would no longer extend the 22-year delay,
11 would allow the 1995 law to be implemented, would officially
12 recognize Jerusalem as capital of Israel, and would relocate
13 the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem as required by U.S. law; and

14 WHEREAS, the U.S. Embassy was officially opened in
15 Jerusalem on May 14, 2018, the 70th anniversary of the Israeli
16 Declaration of Independence; now therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we do unequivocally recognize
19 Jerusalem as the eternal undivided capital of Israel, and do
20 fully affirm and celebrate the move of the U.S. Embassy to
21 Jerusalem.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That it is directed that
23 copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the
24 United States, to the Alabama Delegation to the United States
25 Congress, to the Governors of all the United States of
26 America, and to the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., for

1 transmission to all the proper authorities in the State of
2 Israel.