

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: July 20, 2015

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and
Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst Council File No: 15-0002-S66
Assignment No: 15-06-0506

SUBJECT: Resolution (Blumenfield - Koretz) to SUPPORT SCR 25 (Block) Strategic
Partnerships between California and Israel

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Blumenfield - Koretz) to include in the City's 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SCR 25 (Block) which seeks to promote strategic partnerships between California and Israel that support joint innovation in clean technology, water conservation, health, biotechnology, cybersecurity, education, agricultural technology; and related areas.

SUMMARY:

Resolution (Blumenfield – Koretz), introduced June 16, 2015, states that California and Israel share close ties and are global leaders in the alternative energy, environmental technology, and other technology-based industry sectors. It follows that California is home to the largest in-state innovation network in the United States, which offers technology-commercialization opportunities for Israel.

On March, 5, 2014, the Governor of California and the Prime Minister of Israel signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for strategic partnerships for joint innovation, exchanges, and cooperation between the state and Israel. The Resolution follows that this was the culmination of an effort started in the California Legislature under AB 1032 (Blumenfield) during the 2009-2010 Legislative Session. AB 1032 called for the creation of an MOU geared toward fostering the exchange of information and research between the two entities.

The Resolution also indicates that the participants of the MOU seek to expand the current level of cooperation between California and Israel in areas including alternative energy, environmental technology, health, food and agriculture, and other technology-based industry sectors; including research and development.

The Resolution notes that this will benefit multiple disciplines and enhances the academic experience of faculty and students of both countries. An expanded level of cooperation in the MOU will also promote trade and innovation through strategic partnerships.

SCR 25 seeks to promote these partnerships and objectives. Therefore, the Resolution requests that the City support SCR 25.

BACKGROUND:

Since the MOU was signed, there have been a number of collaborative efforts to meet the goals of the agreement. The California iHub program was developed to facilitate the introduction of foreign companies, investment and partners, including those in Israel, to the state's iHub partners.

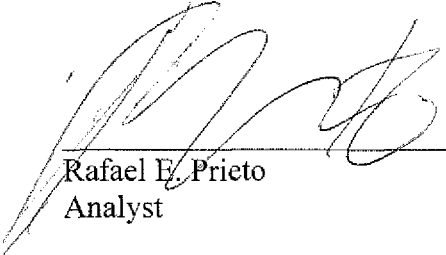
In addition, cyber security workshops and seminars on business expansion partnerships with Israeli firms are in the works. Furthermore, the Israeli and the California Department of Food and Agriculture are in contact to advance partnership and business opportunities.

Alternative energy and clean technology efforts between the state and Israel are being advanced through discussions at the California Energy Commission. Plus, state officials have spearheaded introductions between Israel and the University of California and the California State University to further develop educational partnerships.

BILL STATUS

7/14/15

Senate Floor, concurred in Assembly amendments



Rafael E. Prieto
Analyst

Attachment: 1. Resolution (Blumenfield – Koretz)

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, California and Israel share close ties and are global leaders in the alternative energy, environmental technology, and other technology-based industry sectors; and

WHEREAS, California is home to the largest in-state innovation network in the United States, which offers technology-commercialization opportunities for Israel; and

WHEREAS, March, 5, 2015, marks the one year anniversary of the historic meeting at which the Governor of California and the Prime Minister of Israel signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for strategic partnerships for joint innovation, exchanges, and cooperation between California and Israel; and


WHEREAS, this action was the culmination of an effort started in the California Legislature as AB 1032 (Blumenfield) of the 2009-10 Regular Session, calling for the creation of the MOU geared toward fostering the exchange of information and research; and

WHEREAS, the participants in this MOU seek to expand the current level of cooperation between Israel and California in areas including, but not limited to, alternative energy, environmental technology, health, food and agriculture, and other technology-based industry sectors, business innovation, research, development, and academia; and

WHEREAS, the collaboration between Israeli and California universities will benefit multiple disciplines and enhances the academic experience of the faculty and students of both countries; and

WHEREAS, to achieve these aims, the MOU envisions undertaking the following actions: convening bilateral, interagency working groups with international expertise to coordinate initiatives; facilitating collaborations between Israeli and Californian entrepreneurs and researchers through the California innovation hub network; supporting and encouraging further development of interpersonal contacts and exchanges and promoting mutual cooperation, understanding, and friendship by encouraging ad hoc task forces, trade delegations, and professional exchanges between Israel and California in key sectors; creating public-private partnerships between Californian and Israeli entities in the areas of economic development, social entrepreneurship, and academic research; strengthening the sister city program; and facilitating collaboration between universities in California and Israel to foster research and development;

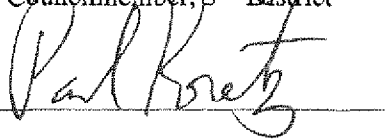
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SCR 25 which would establish strategic partnerships between California and Israel that support joint innovation in clean technologies, water conservation, health, biotechnology, cybersecurity, education, agricultural technology, research, and other informational exchanges, and that also promote mutual cooperation, understanding, and friendship by encouraging trade delegations and collaboration on mutual projects and issues of interest.


JUN 16 2015

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL