

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 938

To strengthen the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2013

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself and Mr. DEUTCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To strengthen the strategic alliance between the United
States and Israel, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States-Israel
5 Strategic Partnership Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The turmoil in the Middle East poses a se-
2 rious threat to United States national security inter-
3 ests and requires cooperation with allies that are
4 willing to work with the United States in pursuit of
5 shared objectives.

6 (2) The October 31, 1998, Memorandum of
7 Agreement signed by President Clinton and Prime
8 Minister Netanyahu commits the United States to
9 working jointly with Israel towards enhancing
10 Israel’s defensive and deterrent capabilities and up-
11 grading the framework of the United States-Israel
12 strategic and military relationships, as well as the
13 technological cooperation between both countries.

14 (3) On August 16, 2007, the United States and
15 Israel signed a Memorandum of Understanding re-
16 affirming United States commitment to the security
17 of Israel and establishing a 10-year framework for
18 incremental increases in United States military as-
19 sistance to Israel.

20 (4) The Memorandum of Understanding signed
21 two years later on January 16, 2009 reaffirmed the
22 United States commitment and noted “the security,
23 military and intelligence cooperation between the
24 United States and Israel”.

1 (5) The United States and Israel conduct a
2 semi-annual Strategic Dialogue. The Department of
3 State, in a statement following the July 12, 2012,
4 meeting of the Strategic Dialogue, noted that the
5 discussions focused on such issues of mutual concern
6 as “Iran’s continued quest to develop nuclear weap-
7 ons, which the United States and Israel are both de-
8 termined to prevent” and “how the continued vio-
9 lence of the Syrian regime against its citizens [as-
10 sisted by Iran and Hezbollah] could also lead to se-
11 vere consequences for the entire region”.

12 **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

13 Congress declares that Israel is a major strategic
14 partner of the United States.

15 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES-ISRAEL EN-**
16 **HANCED SECURITY COOPERATION ACT OF**
17 **2012.**

18 (a) UNITED STATES ACTIONS TO ASSIST IN THE DE-
19 FENSE OF ISRAEL AND PROTECT UNITED STATES INTER-
20 ESTS.—Section 4 of the United States-Israel Enhanced
21 Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–150;
22 22 U.S.C. 8603) is amended—

23 (1) by striking “It is the sense of Congress that
24 the United States Government should” and inserting

1 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The President should, to the
2 maximum extent practicable,”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this subsection, the President
6 shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation
7 of this section.”.

8 (b) EXTENSION OF WAR RESERVES STOCKPILE AU-
9 THORITY.—Section 5(a) of the United States-Israel En-
10 hanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law
11 112–150) is amended to read as follows:

12 “(a) EXTENSION OF WAR RESERVES STOCKPILE AU-
13 THORITY.—

14 “(1) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIA-
15 TIONS ACT, 2005.—Section 12001(d) of the Depart-
16 ment of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public
17 Law 108–287; 118 Stat. 1011), is amended by strik-
18 ing ‘more than 10 years after’ and inserting ‘more
19 than 11 years after’.

20 “(2) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—Sec-
21 tion 514(b)(2)(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act of
22 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h(b)(2)(A)) is amended by
23 striking ‘and 2014’ and inserting ‘, 2014, and
24 2015’.”.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE FOR ISRAEL.**

2 (a) FINDING.—Congress finds that Israel has adopt-
3 ed high standards in the field of export controls, including
4 by becoming adherent to the Australia Group, the Missile
5 Technology Control Regime, the Nuclear Suppliers Group,
6 and the Wassenaar Arrangement, and by enacting robust
7 legislation and regulations for the control of dual-use and
8 defense items.

9 (b) EXPEDITED LICENSING PROCEDURES.—The
10 President should include Israel on the list of destinations
11 described in paragraph (c)(1) of section 740.20 of title 15,
12 Code of Federal Regulations (relating to License Excep-
13 tion Strategic Trade Authorization).

14 (c) OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORA-
15 TION.—In carrying out its authorities under title IV of
16 chapter 2 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
17 (22 U.S.C. 2191 et seq.), the Overseas Private Investment
18 Corporation should consider giving preference to providing
19 insurance, financing, or reinsurance for energy and water
20 projects in Israel.

21 (d) ENERGY, WATER, HOMELAND SECURITY, AGRI-
22 CULTURE, AND ALTERNATIVE FUEL TECHNOLOGIES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized
24 to carry out United States-Israel cooperative activi-
25 ties and to provide assistance promoting cooperation

1 in the fields of energy, water, homeland security, ag-
2 riculture, and alternative fuel technologies.

3 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out para-
4 graph (1), the President is authorized to share and
5 exchange with Israel research, technology, intel-
6 ligence, information, equipment, and personnel that
7 the President determines will advance the national
8 security interests of the United States and is con-
9 sistent with the Strategic Dialogue and pertinent
10 provisions of law—

11 (A) by enhancing scientific cooperation be-
12 tween Israel and the United States; or

13 (B) by the sale, lease, exchange in kind, or
14 other techniques the President determines to be
15 suitable.

16 **SEC. 6. EXTENSION OF EXISTING AUTHORIZATION OF**
17 **UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ENERGY COOPERA-**
18 **TION.**

19 Section 917(c) of the Energy Independence and Secu-
20 rity Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17337(c)) is amended by
21 striking “7 years” and inserting “17 years”.

1 **SEC. 7. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION ON CYBER-**
2 **SECURITY.**

3 It is a sense of Congress that the United States and
4 Israel should take steps and explore avenues to increase
5 cooperation on cyber-security.

6 **SEC. 8. STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES POLICY REGARD-**
7 **ING ISRAEL'S DEFENSE SYSTEMS.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress—

9 (1) commends the first phase completion of the
10 David's Sling Weapon System (DSWS) by the Israel
11 Missile Defense Organization and the U.S. Missile
12 Defense Agency, which is designed to provide addi-
13 tional opportunities for interception by the joint
14 United States-Israel Arrow Weapon System (Arrow
15 2 and Arrow 3);

16 (2) congratulates the Israel Missile Defense Or-
17 ganization and the U.S. Missile Defense Agency on
18 successfully executing the Arrow 3 flyout of a more
19 advanced interceptor, which will improve Israel's de-
20 fenses against upper tier ballistic missile threats
21 from nations including Iran;

22 (3) recognizes that during Operation Pillar of
23 Defense in November 2012, Israel deployed Iron
24 Dome short-range rocket defense batteries to inter-
25 cept Hamas-launched rockets fired from Gaza—of
26 those rockets that posed a threat to the life of

1 Israeli citizens, 80 to 85 percent were successfully
2 intercepted, saving countless lives; and

3 (4) agrees that, as stated by former Secretary
4 of Defense Leon Panetta, “Iron Dome performed, I
5 think it’s fair to say, remarkably well during the re-
6 cent escalation . . . Iron Dome does not start wars.
7 It helps prevent wars.”.

8 (b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—The President, acting
9 through the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of
10 State, should provide assistance, upon request by the Gov-
11 ernment of Israel, for the enhancement of the David’s
12 Sling Weapon System, the enhancement of the joint
13 United States-Israel Arrow Weapon System (Arrow 2 and
14 Arrow 3), and the procurement and enhancement of the
15 Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system for purposes
16 of intercepting short-range rockets, missiles, and other
17 projectiles launched against Israel.

18 **SEC. 9. REPORT ON ELIGIBILITY OF ISRAEL FOR VISA**
19 **WAIVER PROGRAM.**

20 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy
21 of the United States to include Israel in the list of coun-
22 tries that participate in the visa waiver program under
23 section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
24 U.S.C. 1187) when Israel satisfies the requirements for
25 inclusion in such program specified in such section.

1 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
3 submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House
4 of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary
5 of the Senate a report on the extent to which Israel satis-
6 fies the requirements specified in section 217 of the Immi-
7 gration and Nationality Act for inclusion in the visa waiver
8 program under such section and what additional steps, if
9 any, are required in order for Israel to qualify for inclusion
10 in such program.

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