476686

LEGISLATIVE ACTION Senate House Comm: RCS 03/25/2014

The Committee on Education (Bullard) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

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Delete everything after the resolving clause and insert:

That the Florida Senate stands with Israeli universities and institutions of higher learning, and stands against the academic boycott of Israeli universities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate encourages and welcomes bipartisan support in recognition of Israel's right to academic freedom and collaboration with institutions around the world.



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13 ======= T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ========

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the resolving clause and insert:

A bill to be entitled

A resolution expressing opposition to the academic boycott of Israeli universities and institutions of higher learning, and support of academic and political freedom and collaboration with Israeli universities.

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WHEREAS, Israel is the only country in the Middle East which is a democracy, and

WHEREAS, Israel is a strong ally of the United States, and this alliance is based on shared values and interests, and invaluable cooperation in military technology, cyber security, medicine, biotechnology, agriculture, bilateral trade and commerce, as well as educational, research, and cultural exchanges, and

WHEREAS, some groups have proposed an academic boycott as a means of insinuating that Israel discriminates against Palestinian Arabs, and

WHEREAS, Israeli universities are in reality open to all people, regardless of gender, creed, race, or nationality, and fully encourage academic freedom, and

WHEREAS, the academic boycott of Israeli universities and institutions of higher learning is antithetical to the principles of academic freedom and to the free and open exchange of ideas, NOW, THEREFORE,