

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

BILL: SR 1184

INTRODUCER: Senator Diaz de la Portilla

SUBJECT: Anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Campaigns

DATE: January 15, 2016

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Peacock	McVaney	GO	Favorable
2.			RC	

I. Summary:

SR 1184 condemns the international Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against the State of Israel and the increasing incidence of acts of anti-Semitism.

II. Present Situation:

Resolutions

A resolution is a “bill that is not subject to action by the Governor, is not subject to the constitutional one-subject limitation or to the constitutional title requirements, and, except for certain uses of joint resolutions and concurrent resolutions, does not have the effect of law. When adopted by both houses, it is signed by the legislative officers and presented to the Secretary of State.”¹

A Senate resolution (SR), such as this current resolution, or House resolution (HR) is “[a] one-house document used for matters not involving the other house. It is often ceremonial or congratulatory in nature.”²

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement is a global campaign ostensibly linked to Israel’s treatment of Palestinians and attempts to create economic and political pressure on Israel.³ The BDS movement began in July 2005 when various Palestinian civil society groups

¹ The Florida Senate, *Glossary*, <http://www.flsenate.gov/Reference/Glossary#resolution> (last visited January 12, 2016).

² *Id.*

³ See Jim Zanotti, Martin A. Weiss, and Kathleen Ann Ruane, *Israel and the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement*, CRS Report No. R44281 (2015). Also, see Jim Zanotti, *Israel: Background and U.S. Relations*, CRS Report No. RL33476 (2015).

issued a call for BDS.⁴ The call seeks “non-violent punitive measures”⁵ against Israel unless it changes its policies by:

- Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall;⁶
- Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and
- Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in United Nations Resolution 195.⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SR 1184 “condemns the international Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against the State of Israel and calls upon the governmental institutions of this state to denounce hatred and discrimination whenever they appear.”⁸

Also, SR 1184 requires copies of this resolution be presented to the President of the U.S., the President and Secretary of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, and to the Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C., for transmission to proper authorities of the State of Israel.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

The mandate restrictions do not apply because the bill does not require counties and municipalities to spend funds, reduce counties’ or municipalities’ ability to raise revenue, or reduce the percentage of a state tax shares with counties and municipalities.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

⁴ See <http://www.bdsmovement.net/call>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ The “Wall” is a term commonly used by Palestinians to describe the separation barrier that Israel has built in various areas roughly tracking the 1949-1967 Israel-Jordan (West Bank) armistice line, also known as the “Green Line.” See Jim Zanotti, Martin A. Weiss, and Kathleen Ann Ruane, *Israel and the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement*, CRS Report No. R44281 (2015).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ SR 1184, lines 46-49 (2016 Reg. Session).

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

The Senate Resolution does not amend, create, or repeal any provisions of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.