

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: SB 1106

INTRODUCER: Senator Massullo

SUBJECT: Recognizing Judea and Samaria

DATE: January 23, 2026

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	White	McVaney	GO	Pre-meeting
2.			JU	
3.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 1106 creates the “Recognizing Judea and Samaria Act” to direct state agencies to use the terms “Judea” and “Samaria” instead of “West Bank” in official government documents. The bill provides that the head of a state agency may waive this directive when in the best interest of the state but must provide a written explanation or the waiver to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives within 30 days of such determination.

The bill is expected to have a negative but indeterminate impact on state expenditures.

The act takes effect on July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Judea and Samaria

The region historically known as Judea and Samaria corresponds to the ancient Israelite kingdoms described in biblical sources. Around 1,000 years before the common era, the Kingdom of Israel split into two realms: a northern kingdom with its capital at Samaria and a southern kingdom with its capital at Judea.¹ These ancient names have been used historically to describe the central highlands of the land west of the Jordan River, referred to in many parts of the world today as the “West Bank.”

¹ See Britannica, *What does the term “Judea and Samaria” Mean?*, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/What-Does-the-Term-Judea-and-Samaria-Mean> (last visited Jan. 21, 2026).

1948 Arab-Israeli War

Following World War I, the League of Nations² placed the land west of the Jordan River³ under British administration as part of the Mandate for Palestine.⁴ In 1947, the United Nations adopted the Partition Resolution⁵ proposing separate Jewish and Arab states, but the plan was never implemented.⁶ After Britain withdrew in May 1948, Israel's declared independence and armed conflict immediately erupted resulting in the 1948 Arab-Israel War.⁷ At the conclusion of the war in mid-1949, the parties agreed to formal armistice lines⁸ with Israel controlling most of the territory of the former British Mandate for Palestine, Jordan controlling the West Bank, and Egypt controlling the Gaza Strip.⁹ The city of Jerusalem was divided, with Israel holding the western portion and Jordan holding the Eastern portion.¹⁰ In 1950, Jordan formally annexed the West Bank, a move that was recognized by only Great Britain and Pakistan.¹¹

1967 Six-Day War

In June 1967, hostilities between Israel and neighboring states lead to the Six-Day War. Amid rising tensions, Israel launched preemptive strikes and fought against Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. Israel defeated the opposing forces and captured several territories, including the West Bank and

² The League of Nations was an international organization formed in 1919 after World War I to promote cooperation and achieve peace and security. It operated until 1946 and was succeeded by the United Nations. United Nations, *Predecessor: League of Nations*, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/history-of-the-un/predecessor> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

³ The Mandate of Palestine included the southern Levant region; however, Great Britain authorized the Hashemite dynasty to administer the portion east of the Jordan River, referred to as Transjordan, and granted the region full independence in 1946. Britannica, *World War I and After*, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Palestine/World-War-I-and-after> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

⁴ The Mandate's preamble explicitly recognized the historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine and called for reconstituting their national home in that territory, while safeguarding the rights of all non-Jewish inhabitants. The Secretary-General, United Nations, *Question of Palestine*, U.N. A/292 (Apr. 18, 1947), available at <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/829707?ln=en&v=pdf> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026) (attached as the Mandate for Palestine).

⁵ See United Nations, *Resolution 181(II) Future Government of Palestine*, <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-185393/> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

⁶ Under the 1947 United Nations Partition Resolution, Jerusalem would remain under international control and be administered by the United Nations. U.S. Department of State, *The Arab-Israeli War of 1948*, <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/arab-israeli-war> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026). Jewish leaders accepted the UN partition plan, but Arab leaders rejected it, arguing the plan unjustly allocated land and violated their right to self-determination. See EXPLAINING HISTORY PODCAST, THE UN PARTITION PLAN OF 1947: ORIGINS, DEBATES, AND CONSEQUENCES (Nov. 16, 2025), available at <https://explaininghistory.org/2025/11/16/the-un-partition-plan-of-1947-origins-debates-and-consequences/> (last visited Jan. 11, 2026).

⁷ See Britannica, *The Arab-Israeli War of 1948*, <https://www.britannica.com/event/1948-Arab-Israeli-War> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

⁸ The armistice lines were ceasefire lines agreed to without prejudice to future negotiations on boundaries or sovereignty. See Yale Law School, *Jordanian-Israeli General Armistice Agreement, April 3, 1949*, https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/arm03.asp#:~:text=9,of%20either%20Party%20relating%20thereto (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

⁹ U.S. Department of State, *The Arab-Israeli War of 1948*, <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/arab-israeli-war#:~:text=Under%20separate%20agreements%20between%20Israel,Union%20and%20the%20United%20States.> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026); History.com, *Palestine*, <https://www.history.com/articles/palestine> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

¹⁰ Britannica, *Jerusalem in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Whose capital is it?*, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Jerusalem-in-the-Israeli-Palestinian-conflict-Whose-capital-is-it-2231643> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

¹¹ Britannica, *West Bank*, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Arab-Israeli-wars> (last visited January 22, 2026). The term "West Bank" became the common designation for the territory during this period.

Gaza Strip.¹² Shortly after the war, Israel extended its law and administration to East Jerusalem, while the West Bank and Gaza Strip came under Israeli military occupation.¹³

Since 1967, the status and proper terminology for the territory have remained the subject of ongoing political and diplomatic dispute.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 entitles the bill as the “Recognizing Judea and Samaria Act.”

Section 2 creates s. 1.016, F.S., which provides that the Legislature intends to stop using the term “West Bank” and instead refer to those lands annexed by Israel after the 1967 Six-Day War (the region) as “Judea and Samaria,” with the land south of Jerusalem being considered “Judea” and the land north of Jerusalem being considered “Samaria.”

“State agency” refers to “every department, division, office, board, commission, and institution of this state.” The bill prohibits state agencies from using the term “West Bank” to refer to the area in official government materials. “Official government materials” are defined to include any guidance, rule, material, briefing, press release, communication, or work product document prepared by a state agency. State agencies are also prohibited from using moneys to create any official government materials that uses the term “West Bank” instead of Judea and Samaria.

The head of a state agency may waive the prohibition in this bill if he or she determines it is in the best interest of the state and provides the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House a written explanation of the waiver within 30 days.

Section 3 provides that the bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

Not applicable. The bill does not require counties or municipalities to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds, reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenue in the aggregate, or reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None identified.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None identified.

¹² See Britannica, *Six-Day War*, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Six-Day-War> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

¹³ See Britannica, *West Bank*, <https://www.britannica.com/place/West-Bank> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None identified.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None identified.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None identified.

C. Government Sector Impact:

State agencies may incur some costs associated with revising official government material that refers to the “West Bank.” These costs are indeterminate but expected to be insignificant.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None identified.

VII. Related Issues:

None identified.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates section 1.016 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.