

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [HB 31](#)

TITLE: Recognizing Judea and Samaria

SPONSOR(S): Tramont and Tendrich

COMPANION BILL: None

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: [SB 1106](#) (Massullo)

Committee References

[Government Operations](#)



[State Affairs](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill prohibits a state agency from using the term “West Bank” in official government materials or expending funds to create official government materials using the term, subject to a waiver of the prohibition by the state agency head under certain conditions.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill will likely have an indeterminate, negative fiscal impact on state government that is expected to be absorbed within existing resources.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill prohibits state agencies¹ from using the term “West Bank” to refer to Judea and Samaria in official government materials or from expending moneys to create official government materials that refer to Judea and Samaria as the “West Bank.” The bill authorizes the head of a state agency to waive this prohibition if he or she determines that doing so is in the best interest of the state and submits a written explanation of the waiver to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives within 30 days after making the determination. (Section [2](#))

The bill states that it is the intent of the Legislature to no longer use the term “West Bank” in official government materials² and to refer to the land annexed by Israel from Jordan during the [1967 Six-Day War](#) by its historical name of “[Judea and Samaria](#),” with the land south of Jerusalem being considered “Judea” and the land north of Jerusalem being considered “Samaria.” (Section [2](#))

The bill provides that the act may be cited as the “Recognizing Judea and Samaria Act.” (Section [1](#))

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2026. (Section [3](#))

FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

¹ The bill defines “state agency” to mean every department, division, office, board, commission, and institution of this state.

² The bill defines “official government material” to mean a guidance, rule, material, briefing, press release, communication, or work product document prepared by a state agency.

STORAGE NAME: h0031.GOS

DATE: 1/16/2026

STATE GOVERNMENT:

The bill will likely have an indeterminate, negative fiscal impact on state government. The bill prohibits state agencies from using the term “West Bank” in official government materials, including a guidance, material, communication, or work product document prepared by a state agency, unless the agency head determines doing so is in the best interest of the state. Any fiscal impact would depend on the extent to which future materials contain the term and whether agencies determine revising such materials is in the state’s best interest. Any associated costs are expected to be absorbed within existing resources.

RELEVANT INFORMATION**SUBJECT OVERVIEW:****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.³ 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.”

1948 Arab-Israeli War

Following World War I, the League of Nations⁴ placed the land west of the Jordan River⁵ under British administration as part of the Mandate for Palestine.⁶ In 1947, the United Nations adopted the Partition Resolution⁷ proposing separate Jewish and Arab states, but the plan was never implemented.⁸ After Britain withdrew in May 1948, Israel’s declared independence and armed conflict immediately erupted resulting in the 1948 Arab-Israel War.⁹ At the conclusion of the war in mid-1949, the parties agreed to formal armistice lines¹⁰ 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.¹¹ The city of Jerusalem was divided, with Israel holding the western portion and Jordan holding the Eastern portion.¹² In 1950, Jordan formally annexed the West Bank, a move that was recognized by only Great Britain and Pakistan.¹³

³ See Britannica, [What does the Term “Judea and Samaria” Mean?](#) (last visited January 15, 2026).

⁴ 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: The League of Nations](#) (last visited January 11, 2026).

⁵ 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](#) (last visited January 16, 2026).

⁶ 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. United Nations Digital Library, [Text of Mandate for Palestine](#) (last visited January 11, 2026).

⁷ See United Nations, [Resolution 181\(II\) Future Government of Palestine](#) (last visited January 11, 2026).

⁸ 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](#) (last visited January 11, 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](#) (last visited January 11, 2026).

⁹ See Britannica, [1948 Arab-Israeli War](#) (last visited January 16, 2026).

¹⁰ 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](#) (last visited January 11, 2026).

¹¹ U.S. Department of State, [The Arab-Israeli War of 1948](#) (last visited January 11, 2026); History.com, [Palestine](#) (last visited January 11, 2026).

¹² Britannica, [Jerusalem in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Whose capital is it?](#) (last visited January 15, 2026).

¹³ Britannica, [West Bank](#) (last visited January 15, 2026). The term “West Bank” became the common designation for the territory during this period.

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. Isreal defeated the opposing forces and captured serval territories, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip.¹⁴ 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.¹⁵

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

BILL HISTORY				
COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Government Operations Subcommittee			Toliver	Villa
State Affairs Committee				

¹⁴ See Britannica, [Six-Day War](#) (last visited January 15, 2026).

¹⁵ See Britannica, [West Bank](#) (last visited January 11, 2026).