

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 122

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 22, 2015

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblymen Diegnan, S.Kean, Assemblywomen Simon, Handlin,
N.Munoz, Angelini and Assemblyman C.A.Brown**

SYNOPSIS

Condemns Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and increasing incidents of anti-Semitism.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/17/2015)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** condemning the Boycott, Divestment, and
2 Sanctions movement and the increasing incidents of anti-
3 Semitism.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, There has been a disturbing increase in anti-Semitism
6 worldwide, where Jewish populations are facing increased levels of
7 hatred; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Prejudice against Jews as a national, ethnic, religious, or
9 racial group has no place in New Jersey or in the United States of
10 America; and

11 **WHEREAS**, The United States and Israel have a long relationship and
12 close alliance, each attempting to support the interests of the other;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, The State of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East,
15 is the greatest friend and ally of the United States in that region; and

16 **WHEREAS**, The elected representatives of New Jersey recognize the
17 importance of demonstrating unwavering support for the Jewish
18 people and for the rights of the State of Israel to exist and defend
19 itself; and

20 **WHEREAS**, The international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions
21 (BDS) movement has become a vehicle for spreading anti-Semitism
22 and advocating the elimination and delegitimation of the Jewish
23 State, and represents a strategic threat to the State of Israel; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Efforts to pressure Israel via this movement are gaining
25 momentum on university campuses nationwide, wherein a divide is
26 created between Jewish and minority students by developing
27 resentment on the part of disenfranchised minorities toward Jews
28 and generating anti-Semitic sentiment; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Leaders of the BDS movement have indicated that one of
30 its goals is to remove Israel as the home of the Jewish people, with
31 participants at rallies repeating the slogan, "From the river to the
32 sea, Palestine will be free," signifying the absence of the State of
33 Israel between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea; and

34 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's elected representatives understand that the
35 goals and activities of campaigns such as BDS in New Jersey are
36 harmful to New Jersey's relationship with its Jewish citizens and
37 with the Jewish homeland, Israel, and have a deleterious impact on
38 the educational environment; and

39 **WHEREAS**, The call for academic boycotts by the BDS campaign have
40 been condemned by many of our nation's largest academic
41 associations, over 250 university presidents, and many other
42 leading scholars as a violation of the bedrock principle of academic
43 freedom; now, therefore,

44
45 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
46 *State of New Jersey:*

47
48 1. The State of New Jersey condemns the international Boycott,
49 Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement and its activities as

1 being inherently antithetical and damaging to the causes of peace,
2 justice, equality, democracy, and human rights for all peoples in the
3 Middle East, and for seeking to undermine the Jewish people's right
4 to self-determination, being fulfilled in the State of Israel.

5
6 2. The State of New Jersey condemns activities that contribute
7 directly or indirectly to the denial, violation, or delegitimation of
8 any person's academic freedom, including, but not limited to,
9 promotion of academic boycotts against Israel by the BDS
10 movement.

11
12 3. The State of New Jersey opposes all forms of racism and
13 hatred, including anti-Semitism, and opposes attempts to deny the
14 legitimacy of Israel as a sovereign state.

15
16 4. Copies of this joint resolution, as filed with the Secretary of
17 State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of State to the President
18 of the United States, the Secretary of State, each member of
19 Congress elected from this State, and the Israeli Embassy in
20 Washington, D.C., for transmission to the proper authorities in the
21 State of Israel.

22
23 5. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.
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26 STATEMENT
27

28 This resolution condemns the Boycott, Divestment, and
29 Sanctions (BDS) movement and the increasing incidents of anti-
30 Semitism.

31 There has been a disturbing increase in anti-Semitism
32 worldwide, where Jewish populations are facing increased levels of
33 hatred. Prejudice against Jews as a national, ethnic, religious, or
34 racial group has no place in New Jersey or in the United States of
35 America. Notably, the United States and Israel have a long
36 relationship and close alliance, each attempting to support the
37 interests of the other, with the State of Israel being the only
38 democracy in the Middle East, and the greatest friend and ally of
39 the United States in that region.

40 The elected representatives of New Jersey recognize the
41 importance of demonstrating unabridged support for the Jewish
42 people and for the rights of the State of Israel to exist and defend
43 itself. Conversely, the international Boycott, Divestment, and
44 Sanctions (BDS) movement has become a principal vehicle for
45 spreading anti-Semitism and advocating the elimination and
46 delegitimation of the Jewish State, and represents a strategic threat
47 to the State of Israel. Efforts to pressure Israel via this movement
48 are gaining momentum on university campuses nationwide, wherein
49 a divide is created between Jewish and minority students by

1 developing resentment on the part of disenfranchised minorities
2 toward Jews and generating anti-Semitic sentiment.

3 New Jersey's elected representatives understand that the goals
4 and activities of campaigns such as BDS in New Jersey are harmful
5 to New Jersey's relationship with its Jewish citizens and the Jewish
6 homeland, Israel, and have a deleterious impact on the educational
7 environment. The call for academic boycotts by the BDS campaign
8 have been condemned by many of our nation's largest academic
9 associations, over 250 university presidents, and many other leading
10 scholars as a violation of the bedrock principle of academic
11 freedom.

12 Thus, New Jersey condemns the international Boycott,
13 Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement and its activities as
14 being inherently antithetical and damaging to the causes of peace,
15 justice, equality, democracy, and human rights for all peoples in the
16 Middle East, and for seeking to undermine the Jewish people's right
17 to self-determination, being fulfilled in the State of Israel. New
18 Jersey also condemns activities that contribute directly or indirectly
19 to the denial, violation, or delegitimation of any person's academic
20 freedom, including, but not limited to, promotion of academic
21 boycotts against Israel by the BDS movement. New Jersey opposes
22 all forms of racism and hatred, including anti-Semitism, and
23 opposes attempts to deny the legitimacy of Israel as a sovereign
24 state.