

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 257

To recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and to transfer to Jerusalem the United States Embassy located in Tel Aviv.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2017

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. DESANTIS, and Mr. ZELDIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and to transfer to Jerusalem the United States Embassy located in Tel Aviv.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Recognition of Jeru-  
5 salem as the Capital of the State of Israel Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) For more than 3,000 years, the Jewish peo-  
9 ple have maintained a continuous connection and

1 presence in the land of Israel and their eternal and  
2 indivisible capital city of Jerusalem.

3 (2) The State of Israel was established on May  
4 14, 1948, in the wake of World War II in order to  
5 serve as a homeland and place of refuge for the Jew-  
6 ish people.

7 (3) From 1948 to 1967, Jerusalem was a di-  
8 vided city and not all Israeli citizens of all faiths  
9 were entitled to visit the holy sites, and Jews from  
10 other countries were restricted in their access to holy  
11 sites in the area controlled by Jordan. In 1967, the  
12 city of Jerusalem was reunited during the conflict  
13 known as the Six Day War, and since 1967, Jeru-  
14 salem has been a unified city administered by Israel,  
15 and persons of all faiths have been guaranteed full  
16 access to the holy sites within the city.

17 (4) On July 31, 1988, Jordan relinquished its  
18 disputed sovereignty claims to Judea and Samaria  
19 and East Jerusalem, and therefore sovereign claims  
20 to these areas remain “disputed”, not “occupied”.

21 (5) In 1990, Congress unanimously adopted  
22 Senate Concurrent Resolution 106, which declares  
23 that Congress “strongly believes that Jerusalem  
24 must remain an undivided city in which the rights  
25 of every ethnic religious group are protected”.

1           (6) In 1995, Congress overwhelmingly approved  
2           the Jerusalem Embassy Act (Public Law 104–45),  
3           requiring the establishment of the United States  
4           Embassy in Jerusalem not later than May 31, 1999.

5           (7) The United States maintains its embassy in  
6           the functioning capital in every country except in the  
7           State of Israel.

8           (8) Israel has far exceeded the 1907 Hague  
9           Regulation as directed by international law. Israel  
10          has taken all measures to restore and ensure public  
11          order and safety in Jerusalem.

12          (9) Jerusalem has been far safer and more pro-  
13          tected under Israel’s administration than under any  
14          previous authorities.

15          (10) Civil life is entirely present in Jerusalem,  
16          and all government institutions and related frame-  
17          works are also present, including the Knesset, the  
18          Bank of Israel, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the  
19          Prime Minister’s and President’s offices, and the  
20          Supreme Court.

1 **SEC. 3. RECOGNITION OF JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF**  
2 **ISRAEL AND RELOCATION OF THE UNITED**  
3 **STATES EMBASSY FROM TEL AVIV TO JERU-**  
4 **SALEM.**

5 (a) **POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States to  
6 recognize Jerusalem as the undivided capital of the State  
7 of Israel, both de jure and de facto.

8 (b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Con-  
9 gress that—

10 (1) the United States should recognize the sov-  
11 ereign status of an undivided Jerusalem as the cap-  
12 ital of the State of Israel;

13 (2) recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of  
14 Israel and transferring the United States Embassy  
15 to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv will send a signal of  
16 United States commitment and resolve to Israel;

17 (3) the President and the Secretary of State  
18 should publicly affirm as a matter of United States  
19 policy that Jerusalem must remain the undivided  
20 capital of the State of Israel;

21 (4) the President should immediately implement  
22 the provisions of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of  
23 1995 (Public Law 104–45), as amended by section  
24 4 of this Act, and begin the process of relocating the  
25 United States Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem; and

1           (5) United States officials should refrain from  
2           any actions that contradict United States law on  
3           this subject.

4           (c) IDENTIFICATION OF JERUSALEM ON GOVERN-  
5           MENT DOCUMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
6           sion of law, any official document of the United States  
7           Government which lists countries and their capital cities  
8           shall identify Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

9           (d) RELOCATION.—Not later than January 1, 2019,  
10          the President shall relocate the United States Embassy  
11          in Israel to Jerusalem.

12          **SEC. 4. AMENDMENT TO THE JERUSALEM EMBASSY ACT OF**  
13   **1995.**

14          (a) REPEAL.—Subject to subsection (b) of this sec-  
15          tion, section 7 of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 is  
16          repealed.

17          (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The repeal specified in sub-  
18          section (a) shall take effect on January 1, 2018.

19          (c) REDESIGNATION.—At the time of the repeal spec-  
20          ified in subsection (a), section 8 of the Jerusalem Em-  
21          bassy Act of 1995 shall be redesignated as section 7.

22          **SEC. 5. IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.**

23          Not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-  
24          ment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to  
25          Congress a report that—

1           (1) details the Department of State’s plan to  
2           implement this Act;

3           (2) includes estimated dates of completion for  
4           each phase of the establishment of the United States  
5           Embassy in Jerusalem, including—

6                   (A) site identification;

7                   (B) land acquisition;

8                   (C) architectural, engineering, and con-  
9                   struction surveys;

10                  (D) site preparation; and

11                  (E) construction; and

12           (3) includes an estimate of the funding needed  
13           to implement this Act, including all costs associated  
14           with establishing the United States Embassy in Je-  
15           rusalem.

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