

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 265

To recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, to relocate to Jerusalem the United States Embassy in Israel, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2017

Mr. LANCE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, to relocate to Jerusalem the United States Embassy in Israel, and for other purposes.

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 “Jerusalem Embassy
5 and Recognition Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. RECOGNITION OF JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF**
2 **ISRAEL AND RELOCATION OF THE UNITED**
3 **STATES EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM.**

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

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

9 (1) Jerusalem must remain an undivided city in
10 which the rights of every ethnic and religious group
11 are protected as they have been by Israel since
12 1967;

13 (2) every citizen of Israel should have the right
14 to reside anywhere in the undivided city of Jeru-
15 salem;

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

20 (4) the President should immediately implement
21 the provisions of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of
22 1995 (Public Law 104–5) and begin the process of
23 relocating the United States Embassy in Israel to
24 Jerusalem; and

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

4 (c) REMOVAL OF WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Jeru-
5 salem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–45) is
6 amended—

7 (1) by striking section 7; and

8 (2) by redesignating section 8 as section 7.

9 (d) IDENTIFICATION OF JERUSALEM ON GOVERN-
10 MENT DOCUMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
11 sion of law, any official document of the United States
12 Government which lists countries and their capital cities
13 shall identify Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

14 (e) TIMETABLE.—

15 (1) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of
16 the United States that the United States Embassy
17 in Israel should be established in Jerusalem as soon
18 as possible, but not later than January 1, 2019.

19 (2) OPENING DETERMINATION.—Not more than
20 50 percent of the funds appropriated to the Depart-
21 ment of State for fiscal year 2017 for “Acquisition
22 and Maintenance of Buildings Abroad” may be obli-
23 gated until the Secretary of State determines and
24 reports to Congress that the United States Embassy
25 in Jerusalem has officially opened.

1 (f) FISCAL YEARS 2017 AND 2018 FUNDING.—

2 (1) FISCAL YEAR 2017.—Of the funds author-
3 ized to be appropriated for “Acquisition and Mainte-
4 nance of Buildings Abroad” for the Department of
5 State for fiscal year 2017, such sums as may be nec-
6 essary should be made available until expended only
7 for construction and other costs associated with the
8 establishment of the United States Embassy in
9 Israel in the capital of Jerusalem.

10 (2) FISCAL YEAR 2018.—Of the funds author-
11 ized to be appropriated for “Acquisition and Mainte-
12 nance of Buildings Abroad” for the Department of
13 State for fiscal year 2018, such sums as may be nec-
14 essary should be made available until expended only
15 for construction and other costs associated with the
16 establishment of the United States Embassy in
17 Israel in the capital of Jerusalem.

18 (g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “United
19 States Embassy” means the offices of the United States
20 diplomatic mission and the residence of the United States
21 chief of mission.

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