

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3547

To authorize the Secretary of State to establish a permanent residence in Jerusalem, Israel, for the United States Ambassador to Israel, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2017

Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. FLORES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of State to establish a permanent residence in Jerusalem, Israel, for the United States Ambassador to 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’s Enhanced
5 and Secure Accommodations Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The United States was among the first
9 countries to recognize Israel as an independent na-

1 tion on May 14, 1948, and over the decades, Israel
2 has remained one of America’s strong allies.

3 (2) The first United States Ambassador to
4 Israel was James Grover McDonald in March 1949.

5 (3) The United States Embassy in Tel Aviv,
6 Israel, opened in 1966 to maintain and promote dip-
7 lomatic relations between the two countries.

8 (4) The United States maintains a Consulate
9 General in Jerusalem.

10 (5) The United States Embassy in Israel re-
11 mains the only United States Embassy not located
12 in a country’s capital city, even though the Jeru-
13 salem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–45)
14 directed the United States Embassy to be relocated
15 in Jerusalem by May 31, 1999, and the Foreign Re-
16 lations Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003
17 (Public Law 107–228) urged the President to begin
18 relocating the embassy “immediately”, every Presi-
19 dent since 1995 has signed a waiver in the interest
20 of national security to delay the move of the em-
21 bassy.

22 (6) The United States Ambassador has a resi-
23 dence in Herzliya, near Tel Aviv; however, for dec-
24 ades, ambassadors have spent a significant amount
25 of their time in Jerusalem. For convenience and se-

1 curity, many of them have established their own
2 temporary residences and have held official business
3 meetings and stayed in hotels in Jerusalem.

4 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF CONGRESS.**

5 Congress—

6 (1) reaffirms that Israel is a major strategic
7 partner of the United States; and

8 (2) expresses support for individuals and orga-
9 nizations working to encourage cooperation between
10 Israelis and Palestinians to bring an end to the con-
11 flict.

12 **SEC. 4. PERMANENT RESIDENCE FOR UNITED STATES AM-**
13 **BASSADOR TO ISRAEL.**

14 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State is author-
15 ized, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to estab-
16 lish in Jerusalem, Israel, a permanent residence for the
17 United States ambassador to Israel.

18 (b) **LOCATION.**—The permanent residence described
19 in subsection (a) may be located at the United States con-
20 sulate in Jerusalem, Israel, or at a different location in
21 Jerusalem, as the Secretary of State determines appro-
22 priate.

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