



Sponsor Statement

HB 2 Israel Anti-Discrimination Act

"An Act relating to contracts with public agencies; and relating to the State of Israel."

HB 2 prohibits a public agency from contracting with anyone who boycotts or discriminates against Israel on the basis of nationality, national origin, or religion. This bill simply ensures Alaskan's taxpayer dollars are not subsidizing any antisemitic efforts to achieve with boycotts what terrorists have failed to achieve with bombs: the destruction of the state of Israel. The goal of this legislation is to ensure the state does not become complicit in the effort to destroy Israel.

To date, 33 states have passed legislation with bipartisan support or advanced executive orders banning the state from investing in and/or engaging in contracts with entities that are boycotting Israel!

Alaska may seem far removed from what takes place in the Middle East, but as a state we strive to do the right thing and to protect our interests. Israel and Alaska enjoy an important and mutually beneficial relationship. This includes Israel related investments by the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation along with Alaska's exports to Israel, which since 1996 total nearly \$62 million.

In addition, Alaska is a key site for US-Israel missile defense cooperation. The U.S. and Israel regularly test cooperative missile defense programs such as the Arrow-3 at the Alaska Aerospace Pacific Spaceport Complex on Kodiak.

Standing with Israel and defending the Jewish people's right to self-determination in their ancestral homeland is, therefore, not only righteous, but it is also in our state's interests and our country's national security interests to protect the principle of nondiscrimination.