

R006-0405

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN**
20 **ISRAEL**

30 **WHEREAS:** For 3,000 years since the rule of King David, Jerusalem has been the capital of
40 Israel; and,

50 **WHEREAS:** Historically, Jerusalem never served as the capital of any Arab entity under
60 Muslim Rule; and,

70 **WHEREAS:** The city of Jerusalem is of no religious or cultural significance to Muslims, with
80 the exception of one revered site: the Dome of the Rock; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** Jews have been living in Jerusalem continuously for 2,000 years and have
100 constituted the largest single group of inhabitants since the 1840s; and,

110 **WHEREAS:** From 1948-67, the city was divided between Israel and Jordan- Israel making
120 western Jerusalem its capital and Jordan occupied the eastern section, expelling
130 all of the Jews living there; and,

140 **WHEREAS:** During the Six Day War in 1967, Jordan attacked the western part of the city
150 and wound up losing the war and Jerusalem was once again unified under Israeli
160 rule; and,

170 **WHEREAS:** Only three countries have their embassies in Jerusalem: Costa Rica, Bolivia and
180 El Salvador; and,

190 **WHEREAS:** Israel is the only country out of the 184 countries that the US has diplomatic
200 relations with that does not recognize the capital nor does it have its embassy
210 located in that city; instead, it is located in Tel Aviv; and,

220 **WHEREAS:** In 1990, Congress passed a resolution declaring, "Jerusalem is and should
230 remain the capital of the State of Israel" and "must remain an undivided city in
240 which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected"; and,

250 **WHEREAS:** During the 1992 Presidential Campaign, Bill Clinton declared, "I recognize
260 Jerusalem as an undivided city, the eternal capital of Israel, and I believe in the
270 principle of moving our embassy to Jerusalem"; and,

280 **WHEREAS:** In 1995, Congress overwhelmingly passed The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995
290 that stated, as a statement of official US policy, Jerusalem should be
300 recognized as the undivided, eternal capital of Israel and required that the U.S.
310 embassy in Israel be established in Jerusalem no later than May 1999, which
320 never occurred; and,

330 **WHEREAS:** Since no other US Embassy is placed outside of any other self-chosen capital of
340 any other nation, Israel has the right to claim Jerusalem has her capital and
350 America must honor her self-determination; and,

360 **WHEREAS:** Those children born in Jerusalem to American parents do not have listed on their
370 birth certificate or identity card the country in which they were born, Israel;
380 instead it lists only the city, Jerusalem, thus assuming Jerusalem does not belong
390 to Israel; and,

400 **WHEREAS:** Most fear that if the embassy is moved to Jerusalem, it will officially declare
410 Jerusalem as the capital and the Palestinians will never be able to declare east
420 Jerusalem as their capital; and,

430 **WHEREAS:** However, even if Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, the Palestinians could still
440 theoretically have east Jerusalem as their capital if there were eventually two
450 states established; and,

460 **WHEREAS:** Historically, Republicans and Democrats in Congress have both supported Israel
470 in almost all of its actions and even support moving the embassy from Tel Aviv
480 to Jerusalem; and,

490 **WHEREAS:** With Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, people of all faiths including Judaism,
500 Christianity and Islam, are free to practice their religion, pray at the holy sites,
510 enjoy political rights, are able to vote in elections and play a role in the
520 administration of the city.

530 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Maryland Student Legislature urges
540 Congress to create legislation to move the American Embassy in Israel from Tel
550 Aviv to Jerusalem; and,

560 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** The United States officially recognizes Jerusalem as
570 the capital of the State of Israel.

580 **MANDATES:** President George W. Bush
590 Secretary of State Colin Powell
600 Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist
610 House Majority Leader Tom Delay
620 Prime Minister Ariel Sharon
630 Finance Minister Binyamin Netanyahu

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Information Sheet

Jerusalem's Population

Year	Jews	Muslims	Christians	Total
1844	7,120	5,000	3,390	15,510
1876	12,000	7,560	5,470	25,030
1896	28,112	8,560	8,748	45,420
1922	33,971	13,411	4,699	52,081
1931	51,222	19,894	19,335	90,451
1948	100,000	40,000	25,000	165,000
1967	195,700	54,963	12,646	263,309
1987	340,000	121,000	14,000	475,000
1990	378,200	131,800	14,400	524,400
1995	482,000	164,300	16,300	662,600