

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 882

S.P. 282

In Senate, March 7, 2017

**An Act Prohibiting Public Entities from Contracting with and
Investing in Companies That Boycott the State of Israel**

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MASON of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative GUERIN of Glenburn and
Senators: CUSHING of Penobscot, DAVIS of Piscataquis, HILL of York, Representatives:
GINZLER of Bridgton, MASON of Lisbon, TIMBERLAKE of Turner.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1523** is enacted to read:

3 **§1523. Boycotts of Israel**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Boycott" means refusing to deal with, terminating a business activity with or
7 engaging in other actions that are intended to reduce commercial relations in a
8 discriminatory manner.

9 **2. Prohibition on boycotts of Israel or contracts or grants with persons that**
10 **boycott Israel; exceptions.** Except for a boycott under 50 United States Code App.
11 Section 2407(a) (2009), any public entity including the State, its agencies, its departments
12 and any of its subdivisions may not boycott the State of Israel, Israeli-controlled
13 territories or persons or entities doing business with the State of Israel or Israeli-
14 controlled territories or contract with or provide a grant to a person for funding, services,
15 supplies or information technology unless the contract or grant includes written
16 certification that the person is not currently engaged in, and agrees for the duration of the
17 contract or grant not to engage in, a boycott of the State of Israel.

18 This subsection does not apply to a contract if the person supplies the services, supplies
19 or information technology for at least 20% less than the lowest eligible competitor or for
20 a contract or grant with a total potential value of less than \$1,000.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill prohibits any public entity, including the State and any of its agencies or
23 subdivisions, from boycotting the State of Israel or contracting with or giving a grant to a
24 person that is boycotting the State of Israel and requires all contracts and grants by a state
25 agency or subdivision to certify that the person awarded the contract or grant will not
26 boycott the State of Israel for the duration of the contract or grant. This bill does not
27 apply to a contract if the person supplies the services, supplies or information technology
28 for at least 20% less than the lowest eligible competitor or to a contract or grant with a
29 total potential value of less than \$1,000.