

SESSION OF 2017

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2409

As Recommended by House Committee on
General Government Budget

Brief*

HB 2409 would prohibit the State from entering into a contract with any individual or company engaged in a boycott of Israel. The definition of "boycott" includes the refusal to engage in commercial relations with persons and entities engaged in business with Israel and Israeli-controlled territories. The State would require written certification from all individuals and companies it enters into a contract with for services, supplies, information technology, or construction that it is not engaged in a boycott of Israel. The State would also be prohibited from adopting a procurement, investment, or other policy that effectively requires or induces the boycott of the government of Israel or a person conducting business in Israel.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on General Government Budget. In the House Committee hearing, Representative Powell explained his support for the legislation. He emphasized the unique relationship between the United States and Israel, and Israel's standing as one of the few democracies in the Middle East. A local activist testified in support of the bill, stating state governments across the country have passed laws similar to HB 2409 in reaction to the "BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanctions) movement," which is a Palestinian-led boycott movement of Israeli businesses and entities. The Director of Marketing and

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

Research at the Kansas Department of Commerce provided proponent testimony, highlighting the economic impact of Israel as a trading partner and ally with Kansas and the United States, as well as examples of Israeli companies that are based in Kansas. A representative of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, two local rabbis, and a private citizen also testified in support of the bill. No other testimony was provided.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the Department of Administration indicates the bill would have no fiscal impact on the Office of Procurement and Contracts operations.