

SB0170/923228/1

BY: Delegate Kramer

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 170, AS AMENDED
(Third Reading File Bill – Committee Reprint)

On page 267, after line 24, insert:

“SECTION 45. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) anti-Semitism is an intolerable and ugly form of bigotry, prejudice, and hostility directed toward individuals of the Jewish faith and the State of Israel, often based on ethnic, cultural, or religious identity;

(2) Israel, a democratic nation, the only country in the Middle East that is a democracy, is a strong ally of the United States based on shared values and interests and invaluable cooperation in cybersecurity, medicine, biotechnology, agriculture, and bilateral trade and commerce, as well as educational, research, and cultural exchanges;

(3) the American Studies Association is an academic organization composed of approximately 5,000 members, all of whom are members of academia specializing in the interdisciplinary study of American culture and history;

(4) the American Studies Association, through a vote of its members, has endorsed a boycott of Israeli academic institutions and their scholars who are “serving as representatives from those institutions”;

(5) the boycott adopted by the American Studies Association is consistent with a movement known as Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, designed to delegitimize the democratic State of Israel; and

(Over)

(6) the State of Maryland has ratified a Declaration of Cooperation with the State of Israel resulting in the successful exchange of commerce, culture, technology, tourism, trade, economic development, scholarly inquiry, and academic cooperation, which has served to improve the quality of the lives of their respective peoples for well over two decades.

(b) The General Assembly further finds that an academic boycott of Israel:

(1) is antithetical to the principles of academic freedom and to the free and open exchange of ideas;

(2) results in the restriction and stifling of Israeli scholars and Israeli institutions of higher education;

(3) disengages Israeli scholars and Israeli institutions of higher education from invaluable global academic collaborations and conferences; and

(4) invokes fear among the international academic community by creating a hostile learning environment and condoning the use of an academic community as a political pawn.

(c) The General Assembly declares that it is the policy of the State to:

(1) condemn, in the strongest terms possible, the American Studies Association's academic boycott against Israel as an inappropriate action on the part of the academic community;

(2) recognize that such conduct, particularly within centers of academic study, is unacceptable and must be denounced; and

(3) strongly encourage that all colleges and universities support the open flow of public discourse, debate, and academic freedom, particularly with respect to nations with which Maryland has a ratified Declaration of Cooperation.”;

and in lines 25, 28, and 35, strike “45.”, “46.”, and “47.”, respectively, and substitute “46.”, “47.”, and “48.”, respectively.