

BILL SUMMARY

March 2013

The United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2013 (H.R. 938 and S. 462)

The United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2013 seeks to dramatically strengthen the relationship between the two allies as they work to confront new threats and challenges in the Middle East.

The legislation—co-sponsored by Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Ted Deutch (D-FL) in the House and by Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Roy Blunt (R-MO) in the Senate—declares that Israel is a “major strategic partner” of the United States. This designation lays the foundation for expanded U.S.-Israel cooperation in a wide variety of spheres, including defense, intelligence, homeland security, energy, science and trade.

Key Provisions

- Declares that Israel is a “major strategic partner” of the United States.
- Expands authority for forward-deployed U.S. weapons stockpiles in Israel, providing important military equipment for either to use in a crisis.
- Encourages the president to transfer essential military equipment to Israel to meet current and projected strategic threats.
- Seeks to find ways for Israel to join the Visa Waiver Program—eliminating the requirement for Israelis and Americans to acquire tourist visas to visit either country.
- Authorizes the president to provide assistance to Israel promoting cooperation in such fields as energy, water, homeland security, and agriculture.
- Encourages the enhancement of scientific cooperation and collaboration between the two countries.
- Encourages continued American assistance for the Iron Dome rocket defense system.