

SCS SB 739 -- ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ISRAEL ACT

SPONSOR: Onder

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 8 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 5 to 4.

This bill creates the "Anti-Discrimination Against Israel Act". This bill prohibits public entities from entering into certain contracts with a company unless the contract includes a written certification that the company is not currently engaged in, and agrees for the duration of the contract not to engage in, a boycott of goods or services from the State of Israel or any company, or person or entity, doing business with or in the State of Israel. Any contract failing to comply with the provisions of this bill shall be void against public policy. This bill does not apply to contracts with a total potential value of less than \$100,000 or to contractors with fewer than 10 employees.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that Missouri has a good relationship with Israel. Supporters testified that the Boycott Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement is not designed to improve the life of Palestinians and creates a national security issue. They also stated that there is a strategic alliance between Missouri and Israel. Proponents further testified that this bill only applies to companies and will not limit individual free speech.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 2179, HB 1344, and HB 1738 (2020); HB 1006 (2019); and SB 308 (2019).

Testifying for the bill were Senator Onder; Linda Conrady; and Jim Conrady.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that this bill hinders their Constitutional right to boycott. The act of boycotting is a proud political position that promotes political and social change. Opponents stated that this bill will impact Missourians' right to free speech and that no boycott has been destructive to the United States. Opponents further testified that the BDS movement is about unity and equality, not about terrorism. Opponents stated that they are not anti-Semitic just because they support the BDS movement.

Testifying against the bill were American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri; and Fellowship of Reconciliation.