

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education

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BILL: SR 894

INTRODUCER: Senator Sobel

SUBJECT: Israeli Universities and Institutions of Higher Learning

DATE: March 10, 2014

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Letarte</u>	<u>Klebacha</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>RC</u>	_____

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**I. Summary:**

SR 894 “encourages and welcomes bipartisan support in recognition of Israel’s right to academic freedom and collaboration with institutions around the world.”<sup>1</sup>

**II. Present Situation:**

**Resolutions**

A resolution is a “bill that is not subject to action by the Governor, is not subject to the constitutional one-subject limitation or to the constitutional title requirements, and, except for certain uses of joint resolutions and concurrent resolutions, does not have the effect of law. When adopted by both houses, it is signed by the legislative officers and presented to the Secretary of State.”<sup>2</sup>

A Senate resolution (SR), such as this current resolution, or House resolution (HR) is “[a] one-house document used for matters not involving the other house. It is often ceremonial or congratulatory in nature.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> SR 894, lines 39-42 (2014 Reg. Session).

<sup>2</sup> The Florida Senate, *Glossary*, <https://www.flsenate.gov/Reference/Glossary#R> (last visited Mar. 5, 2014).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

### **Boycott of Israeli Academic Institutions by the American Studies Association**

On December 4, 2013, the American Studies Association (ASA)<sup>4</sup> resolved to boycott Israeli academic institutions.<sup>5</sup> The ASA resolution states the following reasons, among others, for its boycott:<sup>6</sup>

- Dedication to “the right of students and scholars to pursue education and research without undue state interference, repression, and military violence, and in keeping with the spirit of [ASA’s] previous statements”; and
- Support of “the right of students and scholars to intellectual freedom and to political dissent as citizens and scholars.”

Viewpoints vary in favor of, and in opposition to, the boycott.<sup>7</sup>

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

SR 894 “encourages and welcomes bipartisan support in recognition of Israel’s right to academic freedom and collaboration with institutions around the world.”<sup>8</sup>

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

#### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

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<sup>4</sup> The ASA, which was chartered in 1951 and has approximately 5,000 members and 2,200 library and institutional subscribers, is an “association devoted to the interdisciplinary study of American culture and history.” American Studies Association, *What the ASA Does*, [http://www.theasa.net/about/page/what\\_the\\_asa\\_does/](http://www.theasa.net/about/page/what_the_asa_does/) (last visited Mar. 5, 2014).

<sup>5</sup> American Studies Association, *About: Resolutions and Actions: Council Resolution on Boycott of Israeli Academic Institutions*, [http://www.theasa.net/american\\_studies\\_association\\_resolution\\_on\\_academic\\_boycott\\_of\\_israel](http://www.theasa.net/american_studies_association_resolution_on_academic_boycott_of_israel) (last visited Mar. 5, 2014). The Native American and Indigenous Studies Association and the Association of Asian American Studies have also called for the boycott. The Daily Northwestern, *Northwestern Students, Professors Debate Israeli Academic Boycott at Panel Discussion*, <http://dailynorthwestern.com/2014/02/03/campus/northwestern-students-professors-discuss-israeli-academic-boycott-at-panel-discussion/> (last visited Mar. 5, 2014).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> See The Anti-Defamation League, *University Officials and Academic Institutions Respond to ASA Boycott*, <http://www.adl.org/israel-international/israel-middle-east/content/backgroundersarticles/american-university-officials-institutions-respond-to-asa-boycott.html> (last visited Mar. 5, 2014); The Daily Northwestern, *supra* note 5; The New York Times, *Backlash against Israel Boycott Throws Academic Association on Defensive*, <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/06/us/backlash-against-israel-boycott-throws-academic-association-on-defensive.html> (last visited Mar. 5, 2014).

<sup>8</sup> SR 894, lines 39-42 (2014 Reg. Session).

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

## A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

## B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

## C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

The Senate resolution does not amend, create, or repeal any provisions of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:**

## A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

## B. Amendments:

None.