

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3871

To establish the United States-Israel Homeland Security Foundation to make grants to joint business ventures between United States and Israeli private corporate entities to develop products and services with applications related to homeland security, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 2, 2004

Mr. TURNER of Texas (for himself and Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Select Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish the United States-Israel Homeland Security Foundation to make grants to joint business ventures between United States and Israeli private corporate entities to develop products and services with applications related to homeland security, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States-Israel
5 Homeland Security Foundation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The development and implementation of
4 technology is a crucial component of combating ter-
5 rorism and implementing homeland security strate-
6 gies.

7 (2) Israel and Israeli industries have extensive
8 experience with matters pertaining to homeland se-
9 curity generally and anti-terrorism specifically, in-
10 cluding expertise in the fields of border integrity,
11 transportation security, first responder equipment,
12 and civil defense planning.

13 (3) The United States and Israel have an ex-
14 tensive history of working cooperatively and success-
15 fully to assist with the development of agricultural,
16 defense, telecommunications, and other technologies
17 mutually beneficial to each country, as exemplified
18 by the success of the Binational Industrial Research
19 and Development Foundation, commonly referred to
20 as the BIRD Foundation.

21 (4) Initiated in 1977 as a grant program fund-
22 ed in equal parts by the governments of the United
23 States and Israel in support of joint United States-
24 Israeli business ventures, the BIRD Foundation has
25 invested \$180 million in 600 projects over the past

1 27 years and has realized \$7 billion in sales and the
2 development of a number of important technologies.

3 (5) The establishment of a similar bi-national
4 foundation, or the expansion of the BIRD Founda-
5 tion, to support the development of technologies and
6 services applicable to homeland security would be
7 beneficial to the security of the United States and
8 Israel and would strengthen the economic ties be-
9 tween the two countries.

10 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL HOMELAND SECURITY**
11 **FOUNDATION.**

12 The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law
13 107–296) is amended by inserting after section 307 (6
14 U.S.C. 187) the following new section:

15 **“SEC. 307A UNITED STATES-ISRAEL HOMELAND SECURITY**
16 **FOUNDATION AND GRANT PROGRAM.**

17 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—

18 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT AUTHORIZED.—The Sec-
19 retary may establish a United States-Israel Home-
20 land Security Foundation (in this section referred to
21 as the ‘Foundation’), for the purpose of awarding
22 conditional grants to joint business ventures between
23 United States and Israeli private corporate entities
24 to develop, manufacture, sell, or otherwise provide

1 products and services with applications related to
2 homeland security.

3 “(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall
4 administer the grant program through the Direc-
5 torate of Science and Technology.

6 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive
7 a grant under this section, an applicant shall—

8 “(1) be a joint venture consisting of United
9 States and Israeli private corporate entities;

10 “(2) be in the process of developing a product
11 or service determined by the Secretary to have appli-
12 cations related to homeland security; and

13 “(3) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Sec-
14 retary a capability to develop, manufacture, sell, and
15 support the product or service.

16 “(c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity may apply for
17 a grant under this section by submitting to the Secretary
18 an application at such time and in such manner as the
19 Secretary may require and containing the following infor-
20 mation:

21 “(1) An identification of the entity that is ap-
22 plying for the grant.

23 “(2) The activities that the entity anticipates
24 will be funded by the award of a grant.

1 “(3) The services or products the entity antici-
2 pates will be made available, either commercially or
3 otherwise, as a result of an award of a grant.

4 “(4) A detailed capital budget for the proposed
5 project, including the manner in which the grant
6 funds will be allocated and expended.

7 “(5) Such other information as the Secretary
8 may require.

9 “(d) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—A grant under this sec-
10 tion may not exceed 50 percent of the total proposed cost
11 for the development, manufacture, and provision of the
12 product or service of the applicant described in the appli-
13 cation.

14 “(e) GRANT REPAYMENT.—A grant recipient shall
15 repay the grant to the Foundation as the Secretary may
16 reasonably require. Grant repayments may not exceed
17 more than 150 percent of the grant awarded, adjusted for
18 inflation in accordance with the Consumer Price Index.

19 “(f) ADVISORY BOARD.—

20 “(1) REPRESENTATIVES.—Administration of
21 the Foundation shall include an advisory board com-
22 prised of public and private sector representatives.

23 “(2) MEMBERSHIP OF ADVISORY BOARD.—

24 “(A) UNITED STATES MEMBERSHIP.—
25 Membership to the advisory board shall include

1 the Director of the Homeland Security Ad-
2 vanced Research Projects Agency and the Di-
3 rector of International Affairs of the Depart-
4 ment of Homeland Security.

5 “(B) ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP.—The Sec-
6 retary shall extend an invitation to the relevant
7 Israeli government officials for their participa-
8 tion on the advisory board.

9 “(g) FOUNDATION FUNDING.—Subject to subsection
10 (i), if the Secretary decides to establish the Foundation
11 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall use not less than
12 \$25,000,000 of the funds available in the Acceleration
13 Fund for Research and Development of Homeland Secu-
14 rity Technologies, established under section 307(c)(1), to
15 administer the Foundation.

16 “(h) ALTERNATIVE MECHANISM TO SUPPORT HOME-
17 LAND SECURITY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.—Subject to
18 subsection (i), if the Secretary decides not to establish the
19 Foundation under subsection (a), the Secretary shall use
20 not less than \$25,000,000 of the funds available in the
21 Acceleration Fund for Research and Development of
22 Homeland Security Technologies, established under sec-
23 tion 307(c)(1), to support the efforts of the Binational In-
24 dustrial Research and Development Foundation to make

1 grants to joint United States-Israeli business ventures for
2 projects related to homeland security.

3 “(i) SHARED ENDOWMENT.—Any expenditure by the
4 United States under this section shall be equal to the ex-
5 penditure by Israel for the same purpose.”.

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