

HCS HB 1729 -- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IN ISRAEL

SPONSOR: Jones (50)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 15 to 0.

Subject to appropriation, this bill allows the Department of Economic Development to establish an office in Israel for promoting strategic partnerships between Israel-based and Missouri-based companies. The partnerships will strengthen and increase the competitive edge of Missouri companies in the fields of agriculture, bio-technology, and other emerging fields. The department's office in Israel will work in conjunction with relevant business and trade organization throughout Missouri to promote these purposes as well as bi-lateral trade in the region.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this would benefit Missouri's export business and trade economy.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Jones (50); Andrew Rehfeld, President and CEO, Jewish Federation of St. Louis; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.