



National Association of Christian Lawmakers

COMMITTEE ON AMERICA-ISRAEL RELATIONS

2025-06 Recognizing Judea and Samaria Act - Rep. Mark Gidley (AL)

A BILL

To Be Entitled:

The Recognizing Judea and Samaria Act; To Prohibit State Agencies from Using the Term “West Bank” in Official Government Materials; and for Other Purposes.

SECTION 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds and declares the following:

(1) The regions known as Judea and Samaria (Shomron in Hebrew) are the ancestral heartland of the Jewish people, comprising the historical, spiritual, and geographical core of the Land of Israel.

(2) Judea and Samaria are repeatedly and explicitly referenced in the Hebrew Bible as the setting for key events that form the foundation of the Jewish people’s religious and national identity. Among these references are:

(A) Abraham, the patriarch of the Jewish people, first entered the Land of Israel at Shechem, located in Samaria, where God promised the land to his descendants, as recorded in Genesis 12:6–7;

(B) Abraham subsequently purchased the Cave of Machpelah in Hebron, in Judea, as a burial place for his wife Sarah, thereby making the first recorded land acquisition by a Jew in the Land of Israel, as recorded in Genesis 23;

(C) Jacob, Abraham’s grandson, had his prophetic dream of a ladder reaching heaven while in Bethel, in Samaria, as recorded in Genesis 28:10–22, and later purchased land near Shechem, building an altar to God there, as described in Genesis 33:18–20;

(D) Joseph, Jacob’s son, was buried in Shechem in fulfillment of the promise made to him by his family, as recorded in Joshua 24:32;

(E) The covenant ceremony between the children of Israel and God was performed on Mount Gerizim (Mount of Blessing) and Mount Ebal (Mount of Curse), both located in Samaria, as commanded in Deuteronomy 11:29;

1 (F) The Tabernacle, which was the center of Israelite worship prior to the construction of
2 the First Temple in Jerusalem, stood in Shiloh, in Samaria, for several centuries, as
3 recorded in Joshua 18:1;
4

5 (G) King David began his reign over the tribes of Israel in Hebron, in Judea, where he
6 ruled for seven years before establishing his kingdom in Jerusalem, as described in 2
7 Samuel 2:1–4; and
8

9 (H) Jerusalem, which sits historically on the border of the tribal territories of Judah and
10 Benjamin, was purchased by King David from Araunah the Jebusite, as recorded in 2
11 Samuel 24:24, and became the eternal capital of the Jewish people.
12

13 (3) The return of the Jewish people to Judea and Samaria in modern times constitutes the
14 fulfillment of numerous biblical prophecies, including but not limited to:
15

16 (A) “Again you shall plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the planters shall plant and
17 shall enjoy them.” — Jeremiah 31:5;
18

19 (B) “You, mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for
20 they will soon come home.” — Ezekiel 36:8; and
21

22 (C) “I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live
23 in them.” — Amos 9:14.
24

25 (4) The names “Judea” and “Samaria” are the historically, biblically, and legally accurate
26 terms for the region. “Samaria” derives from the city established by King Omri, as recorded in
27 1 Kings 16:24. “Judea” refers to the territory of the Tribe of Judah, which included Jerusalem,
28 Hebron, and surrounding regions.
29

30 (5) The area of Judea and Samaria was illegally conquered by Jordan in Israel’s Independence
31 War in 1948. The term “West Bank” was imposed by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
32 during its illegal occupation of the region between 1948 and 1967. It was a political construct
33 meant to reframe the land as the “west bank of the Jordan River” and sever it from its Jewish
34 historical and biblical roots.
35

36 (6) The use of the term “West Bank” is a deliberate attempt to erase the Jewish identity of
37 Judea and Samaria, and to obscure the deep historical, religious, and legal connections of the
38 Jewish people to the land.
39

40 (7) During the Six-Day War of June 1967, the State of Israel liberated Judea and Samaria
41 from Jordanian control, restoring Jewish access to their ancestral homeland and holy sites
42 after 19 years of exclusion and desecration under Jordanian occupation.
43

44 (8) The strategic importance of Judea and Samaria to the State of Israel is irrefutable. Without
45 Judea and Samaria, the width of Israel is only nine (9) miles at its narrowest point—between
46 Netanya and Tulkarm—rendering the state militarily indefensible.

1
2 (9) For purposes of comparison, this narrow waistline is:
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4 (A) Shorter than the length of Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Airport in Texas;
5

6 (B) Shorter than the distance between RFK Stadium and the Kennedy Center in
7 Washington, D.C.;
8

9 (C) Equal to the distance between John F. Kennedy (JFK) and LaGuardia Airports in
10 New York City; and
11

12 (D) Equal to the distance between Columbia University and Wall Street in Manhattan.
13

14 (10) The highlands of Judea and Samaria overlook Israel's coastal plain, where more than
15 seventy percent (70%) of the population and economic infrastructure is concentrated,
16 including Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Ben-Gurion International Airport.
17

18 (11) Israel's control of Judea and Samaria is essential to its defense and deterrence
19 capabilities. Hostile control of the area would place Israel's major cities and transportation
20 arteries at risk.
21

22 (12) The ideological and cultural conflict over Judea and Samaria represents a broader
23 civilizational struggle between Judeo-Christian values and radical Islamic ideologies that seek
24 to undermine Western democratic principles and religious freedom.
25

26 (13) Supporting Jewish sovereignty in Judea and Samaria is an affirmation of:
27

28 (A) The moral and historical legitimacy of the Jewish people's connection to their land;
29

30 (B) The authenticity and enduring relevance of the Bible; and
31

32 (C) The values that underpin both Western civilization and American constitutional
33 democracy.
34

35 (14) Numerous American towns and cities bear the names of biblical locations in Judea and
36 Samaria, illustrating the deep cultural and spiritual bond between the United States and the
37 biblical Land of Israel. These include, but are not limited to:
38

39 (A) Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; Hebron, Kentucky; Shiloh, Tennessee; Bethel, Ohio; and
40 Mount Ephraim, New Jersey.
41

42 (15) Under the San Remo Resolution of 1920, the Allied Powers recognized the right of the
43 Jewish people to reconstitute their national home in their ancestral land, including Judea and
44 Samaria. This decision was incorporated into the Mandate for Palestine, approved by the
45 League of Nations, and remains binding under Article 80 of the United Nations Charter.
46

(16) No international agreement or resolution has lawfully revoked or superseded these foundational legal rights. Therefore, Israel’s sovereignty in Judea and Samaria is consistent with international law.

(17) The security and sovereignty of the State of Israel in Judea and Samaria serve the strategic interests of the United States by:

(A) Preventing the emergence of a terrorist-controlled state in the heart of the Middle East, which would not only threaten regional stability and Israel’s security, but would almost certainly align itself against the United States in international forums such as the United Nations, and would provide a strategic foothold to hostile regimes including China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea, thereby endangering U.S. allies and interests across the region;

(B) Advancing long-term stability in the Middle East, as all areas in Judea and Samaria currently under Palestinian Authority control have historically been used to launch terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians. A further Israeli withdrawal from these areas would create a power vacuum and fertile ground for terrorist groups, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, to expand their operations, destabilize neighboring states, and threaten regional peace;

(C) Ensuring that America stands in defense of truth and moral clarity, by supporting the sovereignty of Israel over Judea and Samaria and thereby affirming the Judeo-Christian heritage upon which the United States was founded—recognizing the Bible as a legitimate historical document, and Israel as the rightful steward of its ancestral homeland.

SECTION 2.

Recognizing Judea and Samaria Act

Legislative intent.

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to:

(1) Refer to the land liberated by Israel from Jordan during the 1967 Six-Day War by its historical name of “Judea and Samaria”, with the land south of Jerusalem being considered “Judea” and the land north of Jerusalem being considered “Samaria”; and

(2) No longer use the term “West Bank” in official government materials.

Prohibition on use of materials that use the term “West Bank” — Definitions.

(a) As used in this section:

1 (1) "Official government material" means a guidance, rule, material, briefing, press release,
2 communication, or work product document prepared by a state agency; and

3 (2) "State agency" means every department, division, office, board, commission, and
4 institution of this state.

5 (b) (1) Except as provided under subsection (c) of this section, a state agency shall not use the
6 term "West Bank" to refer to Judea and Samaria in an official government material.

7 (2) A state agency shall not use state moneys to create an official government material that
8 refers to Judea and Samaria as "West Bank".

9 (c) The executive head of a state agency may waive the prohibition under subsection (b) of this
10 section if the executive head:

11 (1) Determines that it is in the interests of the state to do so; and

12 (2) Submits a written explanation of the waiver no later than thirty (30) days after the date on
13 which the executive head of the state agency makes a determination under subdivision (c)(1)
14 of this section to the:

15 (A) General Assembly if the General Assembly is in session; or

16 (B) Legislative Council if the General Assembly is not in session.

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