

## Israel Advocacy Update ~

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This Week in Israel:

The Israeli government has officially passed the 2015-2016 state budget bill by a miniscule margin: 61-59. The voting began this past Wednesday night and extended through Thursday morning. After reviewing over 1,500 pages of objections, 30,000 specific reservations to the budget, the Knesset finally succeeded. If Prime Minister Netanyahu did not pass the budget by Thursday the government would have fallen. For the last 30 years Israel voted on the Economic Arrangements bill that accompanies the budget first, but Netanyahu did not want to take any chances.

The EA bill was voted on immediately after, and the government will not miss its deadline. No bill was passed last year due to the breakup of Netanyahu's governing coalition, and after living on a month-to-month budget, the government returns to a full year bill.



### Fast Facts on the bill:

- The bill provides for 383.8 billion shekels or \$98.2 billion, in 2015
- The bill provides for 424.8 billion shekels or \$108.6 billion in 2016.

### Did you know?

- Motorola developed the cell phone in Israel
- Voicemail technology was developed in Israel
- Only two countries began the 21st century with a net gain in their number of trees; Israel was one of them
- Israel's national bird is the hoopoe



### Israel in World News:

- Recent attacks in France have Israelis questioning why they don't receive the same international support after terrorist attacks:

“Attacks may not change EU’s critical posture toward Israel over its aggressive national security measures, this despite all the Israeli pronouncements that France and Israel now face same threats....”

<http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Analysis-Despite-recent-attack-EU-unlikely-to-support-Israeli-anti-terror-measures-434628>

