



July 14, 2026

Approved in final readings: Proposed Basic Law: Torah Study



The Knesset Plenum voted on Monday night to approve in second and third readings the Basic Law Proposal: Torah Study, sponsored by MKs Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) and Yaakov Asher (United Torah Judaism). In the vote, 63 Members of Knesset supported the bill, versus 52 who opposed it.

It is proposed to enshrine in a basic law the value of Torah study as a basic value in the heritage of the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

MK Gafni, one of the bill's sponsors: "The statement about the value of Torah study in Israel is very important and critical. In the early years of the state, this bill was not needed. In recent years, the reality is very harsh, and we will not yield on this matter. This is our existence, and we will protect the Torah learners so that they will be in a respectable place, and this bill gives an important place to Torah learners in the State of Israel."

MK Yitshak Goldknop (United Torah Judaism): "We did not return to Eretz Israel because of convenience or quality of life, but because this is the land that the Holy One, Blessed be He promised to our forefathers, and that is our right by force of the Torah. This bill is intended for

the State of Israel and it is intended to remind Jews of what should have been self-evident—that Torah study is a basic value upon which the Jewish people have relied throughout all the generations."

MK Yinon Azoulay (Shas): "In the Jewish state, perhaps such a thing did not need to be spelled out. This should have been self-evident. But there are things that apparently need to be written down. The Jewish people have gone through exiles, wars and pogroms. But the Jewish people always remain living, despite everything. And all this is because of our holy Torah. This is our pride in our holy Torah."

MK Benjamin Gantz (Blue and White—National Unity Party): "Torah study is something that is done willingly and from love of the Torah. Jewish families studied Torah in the ghetto and in the death camps, and we will continue to study Torah. The fact that the Basic Law: Torah Study has been enacted in Israel's Knesset with the direct or indirect aim of legitimizing draft-dodging harms Israel's security and our combatants, and demeans the Torah and its learners."

The explanatory notes to the bill state: "In this Basic Law Proposal, it is proposed to enshrine in a basic law the value of Torah study as a basic value in the heritage of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, in order to establish recognition of it as a basic value."

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