

**First Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R13-0923.01 Effie Ameen x2044

SJR13-022

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Tochtrop,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Ryden,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 13-022

101 **CONCERNING THE "COLORADO DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE**
102 **ARMENIAN GENOCIDE" ON APRIL 24, 2013.**

1 WHEREAS, This year marks the 98th anniversary of the first
2 genocide of the 20th century, the Armenian genocide, when 1.5 million
3 men, women, and children of Armenian descent were victims of a brutal
4 genocide perpetrated by the Turkish Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, As a result, there are fewer than 75,000 indigenous
7 Armenians living within the borders of modern Turkey today; and

8 WHEREAS, The former United States Ambassador to the Ottoman
9 Empire, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., stated in 1915, "Whatever crimes the

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 19, 2013

1 most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, and whatever
2 refinements of persecutions and injustice the most debased imagination
3 can conceive, became the daily misfortunes of this devoted people."; and

4 WHEREAS, The killing of the Armenian people was followed by
5 the systematic destruction of churches, schools, libraries, treasures of art,
6 and cultural monuments that continues to this day in an attempt to
7 eliminate all traces of a noble civilization with a history of more than
8 3,000 years; and

9 WHEREAS, Colorado newspapers widely reported the
10 extermination of the Armenian people, and Colorado communities
11 generously raised funds to assist the survivors, known at that time as the
12 "Starving Armenians"; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2009, the New York Times reported on an official
14 Ottoman document revealing that 972,000 Armenians disappeared from
15 population records within one year, between 1915 and 1916; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite overwhelming evidence, modern Turkey
17 continues to deny the facts of the genocide, honor the perpetrators of that
18 crime against humanity as national heroes, and persecute its citizens who
19 acknowledge or even allude to the Armenian genocide; and

20 WHEREAS, Each April, Armenians throughout the world honor
21 their martyrs and commemorate the Armenian genocide, a term coined by
22 scholar Raphael Lemkin in 1944, referencing the Armenian extermination
23 as a seminal example of genocide; and

24 WHEREAS, Ottoman Turkey's genocide, between 1915 and 1923,
25 against its ancient Christian populations, including over 2 million
26 Armenians, Assyrians, Pontian Greeks, and Syriacs, has left only a
27 handful of Christian faithful to care for the vast religious heritage within
28 modern Turkey that, to this day, continues to represent an integral part of
29 these groups' Christian faith and cultural identity; and

30 WHEREAS, The Republic of Turkey, through neglect, theft, acts
31 of violence, intolerance, and other means of denying basic human rights,
32 has destroyed or stolen much of the Christian heritage within its borders,
33 and has prevented the remaining Christians in its territory from freely
34 practicing their faith; and

1 WHEREAS, We commend Armenians of Colorado, Inc., for their
2 ongoing efforts to bring awareness and to educate the community,
3 including our youth, about the Armenian genocide; and

4 WHEREAS, We commend the growing number of Turkish
5 citizens, including academics, writers, and journalists, who challenge
6 their government's official account of history amid threats of prosecution
7 and imprisonment; now, therefore,

8 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly*
9 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

10 (1) That this legislative body pause in its deliberations to
11 commemorate the 98th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, which will
12 also be formally recognized at a memorial service at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday,
13 April 28, 2013, at the Armenian Garden, located in the northeast quadrant
14 on the State Capitol grounds;

15 (2) That we, the members of the General Assembly, hereby
16 acknowledge April 24, 2013, and April 24 of each year thereafter, as
17 "Colorado Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide"; and

18 (3) That we ask the government of Turkey to honor its obligations
19 under international treaties and human rights law to return all that has
20 been confiscated and to compensate for all destroyed Christian properties
21 and sacred sites, allow for the reconstruction and preservation of these
22 properties, and allow the Christian minorities to practice and teach their
23 religion as requested by Congressional House Resolution 306,
24 overwhelmingly adopted in December 2011.

25 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
26 to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the
27 members of Colorado's congressional delegation; the members of the
28 Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues; the Honorable John
29 Hickenlooper, Governor of Colorado; the Armenian Assembly of
30 America in Washington, D.C.; the Armenian National Committee of
31 America in Washington, D.C.; the Armenian and Turkish Embassies in
32 Washington, D.C.; the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan,
33 Armenia; and Armenians of Colorado, Inc.