

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

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2001 Regular Session
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By: **Senators Sfikas and Van Hollen, Blount, Colburn, Collins, Conway, Currie, DeGrange, Della, Exum, Ferguson, Forehand, Green, Harris, Hoffman, Hogan, Hollinger, Hooper, Hughes, Jimeno, Kelley, Lawlah, McFadden, Miller, Mitchell, Neall, Stone, and Teitelbaum**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2001
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 22, 2001

RESOLUTION NO. _____

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Maryland Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide**

3 FOR the purpose of remembering the Armenian Genocide; and designating April 24
4 as "Maryland Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide ~~of 1915-1923 in~~
5 1915 and thereafter".

6 WHEREAS, One and one-half million men, women, and children of Armenian
7 descent were victims of the ~~brutal~~ genocide perpetrated by the ~~Turkish~~ Ottoman
8 Empire from ~~1915 to 1923 in~~ 1915 and thereafter; and

9 WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide and massacres of the Armenian people
10 represented a ~~deliberate~~ systematic attempt to eliminate ~~all traces of~~ a thriving and
11 noble civilization over 3,000 years old; and

12 ~~WHEREAS, The Armenian people have not received reparations for their losses;~~
13 ~~and~~

14 ~~WHEREAS, To this day revisionists still inexplicably deny the existence of these~~
15 ~~horrific events; and~~

16 ~~WHEREAS, Modern Turkey continues to deny and distort the facts of the~~
17 ~~Armenian Genocide, and honors the perpetrators of that crime against humanity as~~
18 ~~national heroes; and~~

19 WHEREAS, Prior to his invasion of Poland in 1939, Adolf Hitler, the German
20 Nazi dictator, seeking to dispel fears among his military command regarding the

1 world's response to his genocidal plans, asked "Who, after all, ~~today speaks~~ speaks
2 today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"; and

3 WHEREAS, Residents of Maryland are highly sensitive to the need for
4 consistently remembering and openly condemning the crimes committed against any
5 culture or people to prevent similar atrocities in the future; and

6 WHEREAS, Recognition of the ~~86th anniversary of this~~ Armenian genocide is
7 crucial to ensuring against the repetition of future genocides and educating people
8 about the atrocities connected to these horrific events; and

9 WHEREAS, Armenia is now a free and independent republic, having embraced
10 democracy following nearly 70 years of oppressive Soviet domination; and

11 WHEREAS, Armenian-Americans living in Maryland have greatly enriched our
12 State through their leadership in business, agriculture, academia, government, and
13 the arts; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
15 General Assembly of Maryland designates April 24 as "Maryland Day of
16 Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide ~~of 1915-1923~~"; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Governor in the Governor's annual message on or about
18 April 24 commemorate the Armenian Genocide and commend this observance to all
19 Maryland residents; and be it further

20 ~~RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland encourages that~~
21 ~~Maryland public schools develop programs similar to those already established in~~
22 ~~California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York, that focus on~~
23 ~~human rights, with specific attention given to the Armenian Genocide; and be it~~
24 ~~further~~

25 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
26 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;
27 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
28 the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; and be it
29 further

30 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
31 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S.
32 Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;
33 and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin,
34 Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and
35 Constance A. Morella, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and be it
36 further

37 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
38 Legislative Services to the Armenian National Committee of Maryland, 4906 Flint
39 Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20816; and the Armenian Assembly of America, 122 C
40 Street, NW, Suite 350, Washington, D.C. 20001.

