

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Joint Resolution 3 (Senators Sfikas and Miller)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Maryland Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide

This joint resolution designates April 24 as the Maryland Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923. Local boards of education are encouraged to develop programs that focus on human rights, with specific attention given to the Armenian Genocide.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Local boards of education could develop appropriate instructional programs on the Armenian Genocide and other human rights issues with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Maryland has not officially designated a day for remembering the Armenian Genocide.

Background: The Armenian Genocide was committed by the Ottoman Empire (present day Turkey) during 1915 through 1923. Approximately 1.5 million Armenians were killed which represented 60% of the Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire. Despite international recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide, the modern Turkish state has officially denied acknowledgement of the genocide. International recognition of the Armenian Genocide has been made by most major nations including

the U.S., Russia, Israel, and the European Parliament. In 1990, President Bush called on all Americans to join with the Armenians on April 24 to commemorate the victims of the Armenian Genocide. President Clinton issued a similar press release in 1994.

Five states have developed educational programs in public schools that focus on human rights abuses, including the Armenian Genocide. These states include California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York. In California, legislation was enacted that required the department of education to produce films or videotapes on the Armenian Genocide and distribute them to local schools.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HJ 3 (Delegate Hixson) – Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Armenian National Committee of America, Amnesty International, Associated Press, California Department of Education, U.S. Department of State, Department of Legislative Services

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