

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Joint Resolution 5 (Delegate Sophocleus)
Rules and Executive Nominations

**Turkish Treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Ecumenical
Patriarch of the Orthodox Christian Church**

This joint resolution urges the Government of Turkey to • uphold and safeguard religious and human rights without compromise; • cease discrimination against the Ecumenical Patriarch; • grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate international recognition, ecclesiastic succession, and the right to train clergy of all nationalities; and • respect the human rights and property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarch.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Compliance with this joint resolution would not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: The Ecumenical Patriarch presides over a communion of self-governing churches of the Orthodox Christian World. The Ecumenical Patriarchate, located in Istanbul, Turkey, serves as the Sacred See for the Orthodox Christian Church which has been in existence for nearly 2,000 years and has approximately 300 million members worldwide with more than 2 million members in the United States. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was born February 29, 1940 in Turkey. He received his doctorate at the Pontifical Oriental Institute (Gregorian University) and ascended the Ecumenical Throne in 1991. He is the two hundred seventieth successor of the 2,000 year-old Orthodox

Christian Church founded by St. Andrew. He was awarded the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal in 1997.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 28, 2008
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