

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 24, 2012, AS "ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY" TO COMMEMORATE THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915 TO 1923 AND TO HONOR ARMENIAN-AMERICANS

Introduced By: Representatives Corvase, Jacquard, Schadone, Malik, and Gullison

Date Introduced: April 24, 2012

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, One and a half million men, women, and children of Armenian descent were
2 victims of the genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire in 1915, and thereafter; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau,
4 Sr., stated, "Whatever crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, and
5 whatever refinements of persecutions and injustice the most debased imagination can conceive,
6 became the daily misfortunes of these devoted people." The killing of the Armenian people was
7 accomplished by the systematic destruction of churches, schools, libraries, treasures of art, and
8 cultural monuments in an attempt to eliminate all traces of a noble civilization with a history of
9 more than three thousand years; and

10 WHEREAS, Contemporary newspapers, such as the New York Times, carried headlines
11 including "Tales of Armenian Horrors Confirmed" and "Million Armenians Killed or in Exile";
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The Armenian genocide has been acknowledged by countries and
14 international bodies such as Argentina, Belgium, Canada, the Council of Europe, Cyprus, the
15 European Parliament, France, Great Britain, Greece, Lebanon, Russia, the United Nations, and
16 Uruguay; and

17 WHEREAS, Each year Armenians throughout the world honor those who perished from
18 1915 to 1923, and all the world's people should commemorate the Armenian genocide because it
19 stands as an ugly testament to man's inhumanity to man; and

1 WHEREAS, We must all do our best to raise awareness about the Armenian genocide not
2 only because it is an undeniable chapter in world history, but also because learning more about
3 this unconscionable tragedy will help us to better understand the necessity of eliminating hatred
4 from our own communities; and

5 WHEREAS, Residents of Rhode Island are highly sensitive to the need for consistently
6 remembering and openly condemning the crimes committed against any culture or people in
7 order to prevent similar atrocities in the future; and

8 WHEREAS, Armenian-Americans living in Rhode Island have greatly enriched our state
9 through their leadership in business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts; now,
10 therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
12 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes April 24, 2012, as "Armenian Genocide Remembrance
13 Day" in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That this House respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to
15 likewise commemorate the Armenian genocide and acknowledge that genocide is relevant to and
16 affects all nations; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the
19 United States, the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, The Honorable Lincoln Chafee,
20 Governor of the State of Rhode Island, the Armenian Assembly of America in Washington, D.C.,
21 and the Armenian National Committee in Washington, D.C.

