

**First Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R19-1095.01 Cara Meeker x2044

SR19-012

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Senate Committees

SENATE RESOLUTION 19-012

101 **CONCERNING THE "COLORADO DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE**
102 **ARMENIAN GENOCIDE" ON APRIL 24, 2019.**

1 WHEREAS, This year marks the 104th 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 as a result of which there are fewer than 75,000 indigenous Armenians
6 living within the borders of modern Turkey today; and

7 WHEREAS, The contemporary United States Ambassador to the
8 Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., stated in 1915, "Whatever
9 crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, and
10 whatever refinements of persecutions and injustice the most debased
11 imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortunes of this devoted
12 people."; and

13 WHEREAS, The killing of the Armenian people was followed by
14 the systematic destruction of many of the world's oldest churches,
15 cathedrals, and cross-stones, as well as schools, libraries, treasures of art,
16 and cultural monuments that continues to this day in an attempt to

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

SENATE
Final Reading
April 24, 2019

1 eliminate all traces of a noble civilization with a history of more than
2 3,000 years; and

3 WHEREAS, Colorado newspapers widely reported the
4 extermination of the Armenian people, and Colorado communities led by
5 Governor Oliver Shoup generously raised funds in support of national
6 efforts to assist the survivors, known at that time as the "Starving
7 Armenians", as illustrated in the January 16, 1919, Denver Post
8 front-page story titled "Campaign for Armenian Relief is Making
9 Splendid Headway" and a July 30, 1922, Denver Post front-page story
10 titled "\$60,000,000 from U.S. Keeps Armenians from Extinction"; and

11 WHEREAS, In February 1921, the Colorado General Assembly
12 expressed unanimous support for "Armenia, the oldest Christian nation
13 and most martyred of the allies in the World War"; and

14 WHEREAS, In response to the genocide and at the behest of
15 President Woodrow Wilson and the U.S. State Department, the Near East
16 Relief organization was founded and became the first congressionally
17 sanctioned American philanthropic effort created exclusively to provide
18 humanitarian assistance and rescue the Armenian Nation and other
19 Christian minorities from annihilation, and many of those rescued went
20 on to survive, revive, and thrive outside of their ancestral homeland all
21 over the world and specifically in the state of Colorado; and

22 WHEREAS, Near East Relief, a national philanthropic
23 organization supported by the federal government, succeeded, with the
24 active participation of many Coloradans in delivering \$117 million of
25 assistance and saving more than one million refugees, including 132,000
26 orphans, between 1915 and 1930 by delivering food, clothing, and
27 materials for shelter and setting up refugee camps, clinics, hospitals, and
28 orphanages; and

29 WHEREAS, This legislative body has commemorated the
30 Armenian Genocide through annual resolutions since 2002, as well as
31 authorized the 2015 improvements to the Capitol grounds' Armenian
32 Genocide Memorial Garden, established in 1982, including the addition
33 of a Khachkar monument, and establishing in 2018 the Sardarapat
34 Armenian Memorial Highway in commemoration of the battle that saved
35 the Armenian homeland from complete extinction; and

36 WHEREAS, The ongoing impunity for and state-sponsored denial

1 of the Armenian Genocide, which inspired Nazi Germany's explicit
2 conviction that it would undoubtedly escape accountability for its own
3 genocidal crimes, as demonstrated in Adolf Hitler's August 22, 1939,
4 rhetorical question to his Wehrmacht commanders, "Who today
5 remembers the extermination of the Armenians?", poses not only an
6 existential threat to the Armenian homeland but also to human rights
7 everywhere; and

8 WHEREAS, The ongoing consequences of the Armenian
9 Genocide and its impunity include the Turkish-Azerbaijani blockade of
10 the already-landlocked sister states of the Armenian homeland, the
11 Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh; and

12 WHEREAS, Turkey's unpunished denial of the Armenian
13 Genocide and ongoing desecration of Armenian sacred sites without
14 accountability has inspired and enabled the recent execution of an
15 unparalleled cultural genocide of the entire indigenous Christian
16 Armenian heritage in the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhichevan, where
17 between the years of 1997 and 2006 the Azerbaijan Government
18 eradicated every trace of the region's ancient Armenian past of an
19 estimated 90 churches and 6,000 intricately-carved cross-stones,
20 including the celebrated Djulfa khachkars, one of which was replicated
21 in 2015 for the Colorado State Capitol Armenian Genocide Memorial
22 Garden; and

23 WHEREAS, Each April, Armenians throughout the world honor
24 their martyrs and commemorate the Armenian genocide, a term first used
25 by Raphael Lemkin, the legal scholar who coined the word "genocide"
26 and drafted the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and
27 Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, explaining on CBS television in
28 1949 that he "became interested in genocide because it happened to the
29 Armenians; and . . . their criminals . . . were not punished"; and

30 WHEREAS, The Honorable Governor Jared Polis has designated
31 the month of April as Genocide Awareness Month by a proclamation,
32 which designates genocide denial as "genocidal policy" and urges
33 statewide genocide and Holocaust education; and

34 WHEREAS, We commend Armenians of Colorado, Inc., the
35 Armenian National Committee of America Western Region, the Coalition
36 Against Global Genocide, and other human rights organizations for their
37 ongoing efforts to bring awareness and to educate the community,

1 including our youth, about the Armenian genocide and all genocides and
2 crimes against humanity; now, therefore,

3 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-second General*
4 *Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

5 (1) That we pause in our deliberations to commemorate the 104th
6 anniversary of the Armenian genocide, which will be formally recognized
7 at a memorial service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 28, 2019, at the
8 Armenian Genocide Memorial Garden, established in 1982 in the
9 northeast quadrant on the State Capitol grounds with a memorial plaque,
10 and renovated and renewed in 2015 with the addition of the khachkar
11 memorial, a replica of a destroyed medieval Djulfa headstone;

12 (2) That we, the members of the Senate of the Colorado General
13 Assembly, hereby acknowledge April 24, 2019, and April 24 of each year
14 thereafter, as the "Colorado Day of Remembrance of the Armenian
15 Genocide"; and

16 (3) That we express support for efforts toward constructive and
17 durable relations between the country of Armenia, the homeland for the
18 Armenian people, and its neighbors, based upon acknowledgment of the
19 facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian genocide, and a fair,
20 just, and comprehensive international resolution of this unpunished crime
21 against humanity.

22 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Resolution be sent to
23 the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; the
24 members of Colorado's congressional delegation; the members of the
25 Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues; the Honorable Jared Polis,
26 Governor of Colorado; the Armenian Assembly of America in
27 Washington, D.C.; the Armenian National Committee of America in
28 Washington, D.C.; the Armenian Embassy in Washington, D.C.; the
29 Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan, Armenia; the
30 Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness and Action; and Armenians
31 of Colorado, Inc.