

[First Reprint]

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 71**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA
District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)
Senator VIN GOPAL
District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

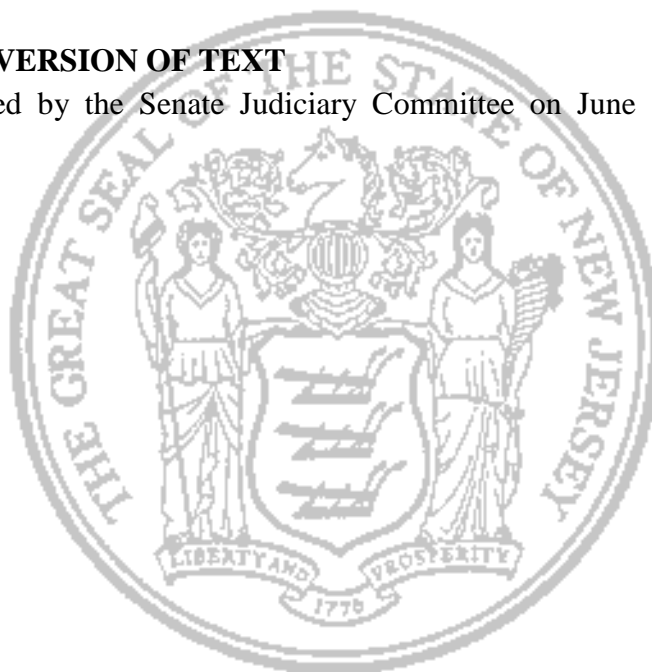
Senators Schepisi and Scutari

SYNOPSIS

Recognizes Armenian Genocide and condemns attacks against civilians in Republic of Artsakh.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 30, 2021, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2021)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the Armenian Genocide
2 ¹and condemning attacks against civilians in the Republic of
3 Artsakh¹.
4
5 WHEREAS, On April 24, 1915, Ottoman Empire authorities arrested,
6 and later executed, more than 200 Armenian community leaders
7 and intellectuals in the capital of Constantinople, now known as
8 Istanbul; and
9 WHEREAS, This atrocity marked the escalation of systemic
10 persecution and violence against the Armenian people by the
11 government of the Ottoman Empire that continued through 1923;
12 and
13 WHEREAS, During this period, Armenians were subject to
14 deportation, expropriation, abduction, torture, massacre, and
15 starvation, planned and orchestrated by the government of the
16 Ottoman Empire; and
17 WHEREAS, In all, approximately 1.5 million Armenians had
18 perished and hundreds of thousands more had become homeless,
19 stateless refugees at the hands of the Ottoman Empire; and
20 ¹[WHEREAS, By 1923, the entire landmass of Asia Minor and
21 historic West Armenia had been expunged of its Armenian
22 population; and]¹
23 WHEREAS, These horrific events constitute what is widely
24 recognized today by numerous scholars, governments, and
25 international organizations as the Armenian Genocide; and
26 ¹WHEREAS, In 2019, the United States Congress expressed that it is
27 the policy of the United States to recognize the Armenian
28 Genocide through official recognition and remembrance; and
29 WHEREAS, On April 24, 2021, recognized as “Armenian Genocide
30 Memorial Day” in Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh,
31 President Biden officially declared that the United States
32 considers the events “genocide” in a statement; and¹
33 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the historical evidence to the contrary
34 ¹and international recognition¹, some, including the government
35 of the Republic of Turkey, deny that the Armenian Genocide
36 ever happened; and
37 ¹WHEREAS, Turkey has continued its campaign of aggression
38 against the Armenian population of the Republic of Artsakh, a
39 democracy and integral part of the Armenian homeland for
40 thousands of years; and
41 WHEREAS, The Republic of Artsakh, having legally declared its
42 independence from Azerbaijan and resisted years of aggression,
43 consistently holds parliamentary and presidential elections that
44 have been rated as free and fair by international observers; and

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SJU committee amendments adopted June 30, 2021.

1 WHEREAS, Azerbaijan, with the support of Turkey, illegally
 2 targeted civilian homes and infrastructure, cultural sites, and
 3 religious sites; and

4 WHEREAS, Azerbaijan has already destroyed and continues to
 5 destroy Armenian churches and cultural sites in the territories
 6 they have illegally occupied since the end of the hostilities in
 7 2020; and

8 WHEREAS, Turkey has continued its military support to Azerbaijan
 9 in its full-scale attack against Artsakh, including from September
 10 27 to November 9, 2020 in an attempt to remove the indigenous
 11 Armenian population of Artsakh from its homeland; and¹

12 WHEREAS, The danger of denying these events was manifested
 13 when Adolf Hitler ordered his military commanders to attack
 14 Poland without provocation in 1939 by saying “Who, after all,
 15 speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians? ‘[.]’ ”
 16 setting the stage for the Holocaust; and

17 ¹WHEREAS, In 2019, the United States Congress expressed that it
 18 is the policy of the United States to commemorate the Armenian
 19 Genocide through official recognition and remembrance; and¹

20 WHEREAS, It is altogether fitting and proper to remember, with the
 21 Armenian communities throughout New Jersey, the United
 22 States, and the world, and with Armenia ¹and the Republic of
 23 Artsakh¹, these tragic events ¹[to help ensure] and to condemn
 24 any actors¹ that ¹attempt¹ such atrocities ¹[are never repeated]
 25 again¹; now, therefore,

26
 27 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*
 28 *General Assembly concurring):*

29
 30 1. The New Jersey Legislature recognizes the Armenian
 31 Genocide and acknowledges the criminal mistreatment of
 32 Armenians by the government of the Ottoman Empire as an issue of
 33 international and historic significance.

34
 35 ¹2. The New Jersey Legislature condemns attacks by Azerbaijan
 36 against the civilians in the Artsakh Republic, recognizes the
 37 Republic of Artsakh’s right to self-determination and independence,
 38 and respectfully urges the President of the United States and the
 39 United States Congress to do the same.¹

40
 41 ¹[2.] 3.¹ The New Jersey Legislature expresses that it is the
 42 ¹[sense of the Legislature that it is the]¹ policy of New Jersey to:

43 (1) commemorate the Armenian Genocide ¹[through official
 44 recognition]¹ and ¹[remembrance] acknowledge the crimes against
 45 Armenians by the government of the Ottoman Empire as an issue of
 46 international and historic significance¹;

1 (2) reject efforts to enlist, engage, or otherwise associate the
2 State of New Jersey with denial of the Armenian Genocide or any
3 other genocide; and

4 (3) encourage education and public understanding of the facts of
5 the Armenian Genocide, including the role of the United States in
6 humanitarian relief efforts, and the relevance of the Armenian
7 Genocide to modern-day crimes against humanity ¹from the 2020
8 war on the Republic of Artsakh¹.

9
10 ¹**[3.] 4.**¹ Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary
11 of the State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate or
12 the Clerk of the General Assembly to the ¹President of the United
13 States, the United States Secretary of State,¹ the Governor of the
14 State of New Jersey, ¹the Majority and Minority Leaders of the
15 United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the
16 United States House of Representatives,¹ and each member of
17 Congress elected from this State.