

Date of Hearing: April 7, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
HR 25 (Harabedian) – As Introduced March 19, 2025

SUBJECT: The Armenian Genocide.

SUMMARY: Recognizes April 24, 2025, as “State of California Day of Commemoration of the 110th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923;” and, commends educators who teach about human rights and genocide and intends for them to continue to enhance their efforts to educate students at all levels about the experience of the Armenians and other crimes against humanity. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Armenians have resided in the Armenian Highlands for approximately four millennia, and have a long and rich history in the region, including the establishment of many kingdoms, and despite Armenians’ historic presence, stewardship, and autonomy in the region, Turkish rulers of the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey subjected Armenians to severe and unjust persecution and brutality, including wholesale massacres beginning in the 1890s.
- 2) The Armenian nation was subjected to a systematic and premeditated genocide officially beginning on April 24, 1915, at the hands of the Young Turk Government of the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1919, inclusive, and continued at the hands of the Kemalist Movement of Turkey from 1920 to 1923, inclusive, whereby over 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children were slaughtered or marched to their deaths in an effort to annihilate the Armenian nation in the first genocide of modern times, while thousands of surviving Armenian women and children were forcibly converted and Islamized, and hundreds of thousands more were subjected to ethnic cleansing during the period of the modern Republic of Turkey from 1924 to 1937.
- 3) California is home to the largest Armenian American population in the United States, and Armenians living in California have enriched our state through their leadership and contribution in business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts, many of whom have family members who experienced firsthand the horror and evil of the Armenian Genocide and its ongoing denial.
- 4) Every person should be made aware and educated about the Armenian Genocide and other crimes against humanity. The State of California has been at the forefront of encouraging and promoting a curriculum relating to human rights and genocide in order to empower future generations to prevent the recurrence of genocide.
- 5) April 24, 1915, is globally observed and recognized as the commencement of the Armenian Genocide.
- 6) Armenians in California and throughout the world have not been provided with justice for the crimes perpetrated against the Armenian nation despite the fact that over a century has passed since the crimes were first committed.

- 7) To this day, the Armenian people continue to face a threat to their very existence in their ancestral lands at the hands of Turkey and Azerbaijan, seen during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war with the perpetration of horrific war crimes and the ethnic cleansing of the region's indigenous Armenian population, in addition to Azerbaijan's invasion and occupation of Armenia's sovereign territory in September 2022, and the ongoing blockade of the Lachin Corridor that has left 120,000 Armenians without access to food, fuel, medicine, and other humanitarian goods for over three months.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

California Turkish Alliance
Turkish Consulate General

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