

THIRD READING

Bill No: SR 91
Author: Gonzalez (D)
Introduced: 3/17/26
Vote: Majority

SUBJECT: Cambodian Genocide Memorial Week

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recognizes the week of April 17 to April 23, 2026, inclusive, as Cambodian Genocide Memorial Week, and calls upon all Californians to observe the week by participating in appropriate activities and programs.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) April 17, 2026, will mark the 51st anniversary of the Khmer Rouge regime, led by Pol Pot. The Khmer Rouge seized power, which led to the Cambodian Genocide.
- 2) The genocide and other crimes against humanity committed against the people of Cambodia, including various religious groups and ethnic minorities, during the Khmer Rouge regime led to the deaths of over 1.7 million Cambodians, which was 21% of the nation's population.
- 3) After the overthrow of the Khmer Rouge regime in 1979, over 140,000 Cambodians came to the United States as refugees, a group of special humanitarian and foreign policy concern to the United States because of the well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion and thus in need of protection in accordance with the United Nations 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.
- 4) The State of California has the largest population of Cambodians in the United States, and the City of Long Beach is known around the world as home to the largest Cambodian community outside of Southeast Asia.

- 5) In 1994, the United States Congress passed the Cambodian Genocide Justice Act, committing the American government to the pursuit of justice for the victims of the genocide and affirming the policy of the United States to bring members of the Khmer Rouge to justice for their crimes against humanity.
- 6) Cambodian Genocide Memorial Week will honor the survivors and their descendants for their courage and contributions to our state and country. This week will serve as a way to remember those who lost their lives in Cambodia and in genocides around the world.

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Related/Prior Legislation

HR 32 (Lowenthal, 2025) – Adopted in Assembly.
SR 37 (Gonzalez, 2025) – Adopted in Senate.
HR 87 (Lowenthal, 2024) – Adopted in Assembly.
SR 85 (Gonzalez, 2024) – Adopted in Senate.
SR 23 (Gonzalez, 2023) – Adopted in Senate.
HR 27 (Lowenthal, 2023) – Adopted in Assembly.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 3/24/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 3/24/26)

None received

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3/25/26 16:15:11

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