

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 19, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 8, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 22, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 144

Introduced by Assembly Member Blumenfield

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Anderson, Feuer, ~~and Ruskin~~
~~Ruskin~~, Adams, Ammiano, Arambula, Beall, Bill Berryhill,
Tom Berryhill, Blakeslee, Block, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan,
Caballero, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Coto, De Leon, DeVore,
Emmerson, Eng, Evans, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Fuller, Furutani,
Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gilmore, Hagman, Hall, Harkey,
Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jones, Knight, Lieu,
Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Miller, Monning, Nava,
Nestande, Niello, Nielsen, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez,
Portantino, Salas, Saldana, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio,
Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, Tran, Villines, and Yamada)**

March 10, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 144—Relative to Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 144, as amended, Blumenfield. Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of April of each year as Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, During the Second World War, Raphael Lemkin,
2 a Polish lawyer of Jewish descent, motivated by the attempted
3 extermination of the Armenian and Assyrian communities during
4 the First World War, coined the term “genocide” to describe a
5 coordinated plan of actions aimed at the destruction of essential
6 foundations of the life of national groups, with the aim of
7 annihilating a group itself, for example, by disintegrating a group’s
8 political and social institutions, culture, language, national feelings,
9 religion, and economic existence, and destroying the personal
10 security, liberty, health, and dignity, and the lives of individuals
11 belonging to the group; and

12 WHEREAS, Following the Holocaust, on December 9, 1948,
13 the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 260
14 (III) A, the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and
15 Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, declaring genocide to be a
16 crime under international law, and defining genocide to include
17 the commission of certain acts, including killing members of the
18 group, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the
19 group, deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring
20 about a group’s physical destruction in whole or in part, imposing
21 measures intended to prevent births within the group, and forcibly
22 transferring children of the group to another group, with the intent
23 to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious
24 group; and

25 WHEREAS, In 2008, the Prevention of Genocide Task Force,
26 convened by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the
27 American Academy of Diplomacy, and the United States Institute
28 of Peace, issued a report finding that in order to prevent future
29 genocides and mass atrocities, effective prevention measures must
30 be implemented before a crisis has erupted, and that educating the
31 public can help to protect individual rights and promote a culture
32 of lawfulness that will help prevent future genocides; and

33 WHEREAS, The State of California condemns, and desires to
34 combat, all acts of genocide; and

35 WHEREAS, Educating the public about the evils of genocide
36 and commemorating victims of genocide, including the adoption
37 of a Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month, are effective
38 tools that will further these goals; now, therefore, be it

39 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
40 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the

- 1 month of April of each year as Genocide Awareness and Prevention
- 2 Month; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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