

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 15, 2010

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 8, 2010

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 26

Introduced by Senators Simitian and Liu (Coauthor: Senator Oropeza)

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members De Leon and Portantino)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Anderson, Arambula, Bass, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Tom Berryhill, Blakeslee, Blumenfeld, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Caballero, Charles Calderon, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Coto, Davis, De La Torre, Emmerson, Eng, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Fuller, Furutani, Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gilmore, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jeffries, Lieu, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Miller, Monning, Nava, Nestande, Niello, Nielsen, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Villines, and Yamada)

March 23, 2010

Senate Joint Resolution No. 26—Relative to the Armenian Genocide.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 26, as amended, Simitian. Armenian Genocide: Day of Remembrance.

This measure would designate April 24, 2010, as “California Day of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923.” It would memorialize the Congress and the President of the United States to act likewise to commemorate the Armenian Genocide.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, One and one-half million men, women, and
2 children of Armenian descent were victims of the brutal genocide
3 perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, inclusive;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide and massacre of the
6 Armenian people have been recognized as an attempt to eliminate
7 all traces of a thriving and noble civilization over 3,000 years old;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, To this day, revisionists, including the Republic
10 of Turkey, still deny the existence of these horrific events; and

11 WHEREAS, By consistently remembering and openly
12 condemning the atrocities committed against the Armenians,
13 California residents demonstrate their sensitivity to a need for
14 constant vigilance to prevent similar atrocities in the future; and

15 WHEREAS, Recognition of the 95th anniversary of this
16 genocide is crucial to preventing the repetition of future genocides
17 and educating people about the atrocities connected to these tragic
18 events; and

19 WHEREAS, On this 95th anniversary of the Armenian
20 Genocide, it is also appropriate to remember, honor, and thank
21 those righteous ethnic Turks and Kurds who, often at risk to their
22 own lives, lent aid, comfort, and assistance to ethnic Armenians
23 seeking to escape the genocide; and

24 WHEREAS, Armenia is now a free and independent republic,
25 having embraced democracy following the dissolution of the Soviet
26 Union; and

27 WHEREAS, California is home to the largest population of
28 Armenians in the United States, and those citizens have enriched
29 our state through leadership in business, agriculture, academia,
30 medicine, government, and the arts, and they are proud and
31 patriotic practitioners of American citizenship; now, therefore, be
32 it

33 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
34 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
35 hereby designates April 24, 2010, as the “California Day of
36 Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923”; and be
37 it further

38 *Resolved*, That the State of California respectfully memorializes
39 the Congress of the United States to act likewise to commemorate
40 the Armenian Genocide; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
2 this resolution to the President of the United States, Members of
3 the United States Congress, the Governor, and Armenian churches
4 and commemorative organizations in California.

O