

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 7, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 7

**Introduced by Assembly Members Charles Calderon, Achadjian,
and ~~Gatto~~ Gatto, and Portantino**

**(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Conway, Halderman, and
John A. Pérez)**

*(Principal coauthors: Senators Berryhill, De León, Liu, Simitian,
Wyland, and Yee)*

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Bill Berryhill, Block,
Cook, Garrick, Gordon, Hagman, Harkey, Huffman,
Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Monning, Nielsen, Olsen, Swanson, and
Williams)**

(Coauthors: Senators Cannella, Dutton, and Rubio)

March 3, 2011

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 7—Relative to the Armenian
Genocide.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 7, as amended, Charles Calderon. Armenian Genocide.

This measure would designate the week of April 18 to 24, 2011, as “California Week of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923,” and would memorialize the Congress and the President of the United States to observe the California Week of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide by participating in the Armenian Genocide Commemorative Project.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923 was the
2 first genocide of the 20th century, in which 1.5 million men,
3 women, and children lost their lives at the hands of the Turkish
4 Ottoman Empire; and

5 WHEREAS, In their 3,000 year historic homeland in Asia
6 Minor, Armenians were subjected to severe and unjust persecution
7 and brutality by the Turkish rulers of the Ottoman Empire before
8 and after the turn of the 20th century, including widespread acts
9 of destruction and murder during the period from ~~1894–1896~~ 1894
10 to 1896, *inclusive*, and again in 1909; and

11 WHEREAS, The massacre of the Armenians constituted one of
12 the most atrocious violations of human rights in the history of the
13 world; and

14 WHEREAS, Adolph Hitler, in persuading his army commanders
15 that the merciless persecution and killing of Jews, Poles, and other
16 people would bring no retribution, declared, “Who, after all, speaks
17 today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”; and

18 WHEREAS, Unlike other people and governments that have
19 admitted and denounced the abuses and crimes of predecessor
20 regimes, and despite the overwhelming proof of genocidal intent,
21 the Republic of Turkey has inexplicably and adamantly denied the
22 occurrence of the crimes against humanity committed by the
23 Ottoman and Young Turk rulers, and those denials compound the
24 grief of the few remaining survivors of the atrocities, desecrate
25 the memory of the victims, and cause continuing pain to the
26 descendants of the victims; and

27 WHEREAS, Leaders of nations with strategic, commercial, and
28 cultural ties to the Republic of Turkey should be reminded of their
29 duty to encourage Turkish officials to cease efforts to distort facts
30 and deny the history of events surrounding the Armenian Genocide;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, The accelerated level and scope of denial and
33 revisionism, coupled with the passage of time and the fact that
34 very few survivors remain who can serve as reminders of
35 indescribable brutality and tormented lives, compel a sense of
36 urgency in efforts to solidify recognition of historical truth; and

37 WHEREAS, By consistently remembering and forcefully
38 condemning the atrocities committed against the Armenians, and
39 honoring the survivors as well as other victims of similar heinous
40 conduct, we guard against repetition of such acts of genocide and

1 provide the American public with a greater understanding of its
2 heritage; and

3 WHEREAS, This measure would provide that the Legislature
4 deplores the persistent, ongoing efforts by any person in this
5 country or abroad to deny the historical fact of the Armenian
6 Genocide; and

7 WHEREAS, California is home to the largest
8 Armenian-American population in the United States, and
9 Armenians living in California have enriched our state through
10 their leadership in business, agriculture, academia, government,
11 and the arts; and

12 WHEREAS, The State of California has been at the forefront
13 of encouraging and promoting a curriculum relating to human
14 rights and genocide in order to empower future generations to
15 prevent recurrence of the crime of genocide; now, therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
17 *California, jointly*, That the State of California commends its
18 conscientious educators who teach about human rights and
19 genocide; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California hereby
21 designates the week of April 18 to 24, 2011, as “California Week
22 of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923”; and
23 be it further

24 *Resolved*, That California commemorates California Week of
25 Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide through the Armenian
26 Genocide Commemorative Project; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the State of California respectfully calls upon
28 the Congress and the President of the United States to act likewise
29 and to formally and consistently recognize and reaffirm the
30 historical truth that the atrocities committed against the Armenian
31 people constituted genocide; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls upon the Republic of Turkey
33 to acknowledge the facts of the Armenian Genocide and to work
34 toward a just resolution; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
36 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
37 States, Members of the United States Congress, the Governor, and
38 the Turkish Ambassador to the United States.

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