

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R18-1274.01 Owen Colling x4338

HJR18-1019

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Wist and Bridges,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Tate and Moreno,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-1019

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF A PORTION OF ARAPAHOE ROAD**
102 **FROM INTERSTATE 25 TO PARKER ROAD IN ARAPAHOE COUNTY**
103 **AS THE "SARDARAPAT ARMENIAN MEMORIAL HIGHWAY".**

1 WHEREAS, This year marks the 103rd anniversary of the first
2 genocide of the 20th century, the Armenian genocide, when 1.5 million
3 men, women, and children of Armenian descent were victims of a brutal
4 genocide perpetrated by the Turkish Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Three years after the genocide's commencement, in
7 May 1918 a group of genocide survivors, alongside Armenian forces,
8 fought the larger Ottoman Turkish army to a standstill at Sardarapat at the
9 foot of Mt. Ararat, a heroic sacrifice that paved the way to the Republic
10 of Armenia; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 WHEREAS, The establishment of the Republic of Armenia
2 through the Battle of Sardarapat enabled the Congressionally-sanctioned
3 Near East Relief, which housed a regional headquarters in Denver, to
4 optimize its nationwide fundraising that ultimately saved 132,000
5 Armenian genocide orphans; and

6 WHEREAS, Sardarapat is considered by many Americans of
7 Armenian descent as the pivotal event in saving the last remnants of their
8 ancient homeland and has been depicted in arts and literature alike,
9 including in the works of American abstractionist Zareh Maranian,
10 formerly of Colorado Springs; and

11 WHEREAS, The Armenian victory at Sardarapat is a universal
12 inspiration to fight for one's rights, without reliance on others, even when
13 facing the worst imaginable conditions for survival; and

14 WHEREAS, In February 1921, the Colorado General Assembly
15 expressed unanimous support for "Armenia, the oldest Christian nation
16 and most martyred of the allies in the World War"; and

17 WHEREAS, This legislative body has recognized April 24 through
18 numerous joint resolutions such as "Colorado Day of Remembrance of
19 the Armenian Genocide" and authorized the 2015 improvements to the
20 Capitol grounds' Armenian Genocide Memorial Garden, including the
21 addition of a Khachkar monument; and

22 WHEREAS, It is the purpose of this Joint Resolution to keep the
23 memory of Sardarapat alive so that Coloradans, whose predecessors
24 generously aided the Armenian relief efforts, can be inspired by the
25 heroic victory against all odds; now, therefore,

26 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first*
27 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

28 (1) That a portion of Arapahoe Road from Interstate 25 to Parker
29 Road in Arapahoe County be named the "Sardarapat Armenian Memorial
30 Highway" in honor of Armenian Genocide survivors' valiant contributions
31 in creating the independent Republic of Armenia one hundred years ago;

32 (2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept
33 and expend gifts, grants, donations, and federal funds for the purposes of

1 the initial placement of signs to mark the designated section of Arapahoe
2 Road in Centennial, Colorado, as the "Sardarapat Armenian Memorial
3 Highway"; and

4 (3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore
5 a cooperative agreement with the appropriate authorities of Arapahoe
6 County for the maintenance of the markings for the "Sardarapat Armenian
7 Memorial Highway".

8 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
9 to the Transportation Commission of Colorado, the Office of
10 Transportation Safety within the Colorado Department of Transportation,
11 the joint Sardarapat Memorial Committee of the Armenian National
12 Committee of America - Western Region's Colorado Office, and
13 Armenians of Colorado, Inc.