

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R19-1095.01 Cara Meeker x2044

**SR19-012**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

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**Senate Committees**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION 19-012**

101      **CONCERNING THE "COLORADO DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE**  
102                    **ARMENIAN GENOCIDE" ON APRIL 24, 2019.**

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1                WHEREAS, This year marks the 104th 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 as a result of which there are fewer than 75,000 indigenous Armenians  
6 living within the borders of modern Turkey today; and

7                WHEREAS, The contemporary United States Ambassador to the  
8 Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., stated in 1915, "Whatever  
9 crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, and  
10 whatever refinements of persecutions and injustice the most debased  
11 imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortunes of this devoted  
12 people."; and

13                WHEREAS, The killing of the Armenian people was followed by  
14 the systematic destruction of many of the world's oldest churches,  
15 cathedrals, and cross-stones, as well as schools, libraries, treasures of art,  
16 and cultural monuments that continues to this day in an attempt to

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 eliminate all traces of a noble civilization with a history of more than  
2 3,000 years; and

3 WHEREAS, Colorado newspapers widely reported the  
4 extermination of the Armenian people, and Colorado communities led by  
5 Governor Oliver Shoup generously raised funds in support of national  
6 efforts to assist the survivors, known at that time as the "Starving  
7 Armenians", as illustrated in the January 16, 1919, Denver Post  
8 front-page story titled "Campaign for Armenian Relief is Making  
9 Splendid Headway" and a July 30, 1922, Denver Post front-page story  
10 titled "\$60,000,000 from U.S. Keeps Armenians from Extinction"; and

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

14 WHEREAS, In response to the genocide and at the behest of  
15 President Woodrow Wilson and the U.S. State Department, the Near East  
16 Relief organization was founded and became the first congressionally  
17 sanctioned American philanthropic effort created exclusively to provide  
18 humanitarian assistance and rescue the Armenian Nation and other  
19 Christian minorities from annihilation, and many of those rescued went  
20 on to survive, revive, and thrive outside of their ancestral homeland all  
21 over the world and specifically in the state of Colorado; and

22 WHEREAS, Near East Relief, a national philanthropic  
23 organization supported by the federal government, succeeded, with the  
24 active participation of many Coloradans in delivering \$117 million of  
25 assistance and saving more than one million refugees, including 132,000  
26 orphans, between 1915 and 1930 by delivering food, clothing, and  
27 materials for shelter and setting up refugee camps, clinics, hospitals, and  
28 orphanages; and

29 WHEREAS, This legislative body has commemorated the  
30 Armenian Genocide through annual resolutions since 2002, as well as  
31 authorized the 2015 improvements to the Capitol grounds' Armenian  
32 Genocide Memorial Garden, established in 1982, including the addition  
33 of a Khachkar monument, and establishing in 2018 the Sardarapat  
34 Armenian Memorial Highway in commemoration of the battle that saved  
35 the Armenian homeland from complete extinction; and

36 WHEREAS, The ongoing impunity for and state-sponsored denial

1 of the Armenian Genocide, which inspired Nazi Germany's explicit  
2 conviction that it would undoubtedly escape accountability for its own  
3 genocidal crimes, as demonstrated in Adolf Hitler's August 22, 1939,  
4 rhetorical question to his Wehrmacht commanders, "Who today  
5 remembers the extermination of the Armenians?", poses not only an  
6 existential threat to the Armenian homeland but also to human rights  
7 everywhere; and

8 WHEREAS, The ongoing consequences of the Armenian  
9 Genocide and its impunity include the Turkish-Azerbaijani blockade of  
10 the already-landlocked sister states of the Armenian homeland, the  
11 Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh; and

12 WHEREAS, Turkey's unpunished denial of the Armenian  
13 Genocide and ongoing desecration of Armenian sacred sites without  
14 accountability has inspired and enabled the recent execution of an  
15 unparalleled cultural genocide of the entire indigenous Christian  
16 Armenian heritage in the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhichevan, where  
17 between the years of 1997 and 2006 the Azerbaijan Government  
18 eradicated every trace of the region's ancient Armenian past of an  
19 estimated 90 churches and 6,000 intricately-carved cross-stones,  
20 including the celebrated Djulfa khachkars, one of which was replicated  
21 in 2015 for the Colorado State Capitol Armenian Genocide Memorial  
22 Garden; and

23 WHEREAS, Each April, Armenians throughout the world honor  
24 their martyrs and commemorate the Armenian genocide, a term first used  
25 by Raphael Lemkin, the legal scholar who coined the word "genocide"  
26 and drafted the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and  
27 Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, explaining on CBS television in  
28 1949 that he "became interested in genocide because it happened to the  
29 Armenians; and . . . their criminals . . . were not punished"; and

30 WHEREAS, The Honorable Governor Jared Polis has designated  
31 the month of April as Genocide Awareness Month by a proclamation,  
32 which designates genocide denial as "genocidal policy" and urges  
33 statewide genocide and Holocaust education; and

34 WHEREAS, We commend Armenians of Colorado, Inc., the  
35 Armenian National Committee of America Western Region, the Coalition  
36 Against Global Genocide, and other human rights organizations for their  
37 ongoing efforts to bring awareness and to educate the community,

1 including our youth, about the Armenian genocide and all genocides and  
2 crimes against humanity; now, therefore,

3 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-second General*  
4 *Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

5 (1) That we pause in our deliberations to commemorate the 104th  
6 anniversary of the Armenian genocide, which will be formally recognized  
7 at a memorial service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 28, 2019, at the  
8 Armenian Genocide Memorial Garden, established in 1982 in the  
9 northeast quadrant on the State Capitol grounds with a memorial plaque,  
10 and renovated and renewed in 2015 with the addition of the khachkar  
11 memorial, a replica of a destroyed medieval Djulfa headstone;

12 (2) That we, the members of the Senate of the Colorado General  
13 Assembly, hereby acknowledge April 24, 2019, and April 24 of each year  
14 thereafter, as the "Colorado Day of Remembrance of the Armenian  
15 Genocide"; and

16 (3) That we express support for efforts toward constructive and  
17 durable relations between the country of Armenia, the homeland for the  
18 Armenian people, and its neighbors, based upon acknowledgment of the  
19 facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian genocide, and a fair,  
20 just, and comprehensive international resolution of this unpunished crime  
21 against humanity.

22 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Resolution be sent to  
23 the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; the  
24 members of Colorado's congressional delegation; the members of the  
25 Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues; the Honorable Jared Polis,  
26 Governor of Colorado; the Armenian Assembly of America in  
27 Washington, D.C.; the Armenian National Committee of America in  
28 Washington, D.C.; the Armenian Embassy in Washington, D.C.; the  
29 Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan, Armenia; the  
30 Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness and Action; and Armenians  
31 of Colorado, Inc.