

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 71**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Schepisi and Scutari

SYNOPSIS

Recognizes Armenian Genocide.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2021)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** recognizing the Armenian Genocide.
2
3 **WHEREAS**, On April 24, 1915, Ottoman Empire authorities arrested,
4 and later executed, more than 200 Armenian community leaders
5 and intellectuals in the capital of Constantinople, now known as
6 Istanbul; and
7 **WHEREAS**, This atrocity marked the escalation of systemic persecution
8 and violence against the Armenian people by the government of the
9 Ottoman Empire that continued through 1923; and
10 **WHEREAS**, During this period, Armenians were subject to deportation,
11 expropriation, abduction, torture, massacre, and starvation, planned
12 and orchestrated by the government of the Ottoman Empire; and
13 **WHEREAS**, In all, approximately 1.5 million Armenians had perished
14 and hundreds of thousands more had become homeless, stateless
15 refugees at the hands of the Ottoman Empire; and
16 **WHEREAS**, By 1923, the entire landmass of Asia Minor and historic
17 West Armenia had been expunged of its Armenian population; and
18 **WHEREAS**, These horrific events constitute what is widely recognized
19 today by numerous scholars, governments, and international
20 organizations as the Armenian Genocide; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Notwithstanding the historical evidence to the contrary,
22 some, including the government of the Republic of Turkey, deny
23 that the Armenian Genocide ever happened; and
24 **WHEREAS**, The danger of denying these events was manifested when
25 Adolf Hitler ordered his military commanders to attack Poland
26 without provocation in 1939 by saying “Who, after all, speaks
27 today of the annihilation of the Armenians?,” setting the stage for
28 the Holocaust; and
29 **WHEREAS**, In 2019, the United States Congress expressed that it is the
30 policy of the United States to commemorate the Armenian
31 Genocide through official recognition and remembrance; and
32 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper to remember, with the
33 Armenian communities throughout New Jersey, the United States,
34 and the world, and with Armenia, these tragic events to help ensure
35 that such atrocities are never repeated; now, therefore,
36
37 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the
38 *General Assembly concurring*):
39
40 1. The New Jersey Legislature recognizes the Armenian
41 Genocide and acknowledges the criminal mistreatment of
42 Armenians by the government of the Ottoman Empire as an issue of
43 international and historic significance.
44
45 2. The New Jersey Legislature expresses that it is the sense of
46 the Legislature that it is the policy of New Jersey to:
47 (1) commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official
48 recognition and remembrance;

1 (2) reject efforts to enlist, engage, or otherwise associate the
2 State of New Jersey with denial of the Armenian Genocide or any
3 other genocide; and

4 (3) encourage education and public understanding of the facts of
5 the Armenian Genocide, including the role of the United States in
6 humanitarian relief efforts, and the relevance of the Armenian
7 Genocide to modern-day crimes against humanity.

8
9 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of the
10 State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate or the
11 Clerk of the General Assembly to the Governor of the State of New
12 Jersey and each member of Congress elected from this State.

13
14
15 STATEMENT

16
17 This concurrent resolution recognizes the Armenian Genocide
18 and the atrocities suffered by the Armenians at the hands of the
19 government of the Ottoman Empire from 1915 through 1923.
20 During this period, Armenians were subject to deportation,
21 expropriation, abduction, torture, massacre, and starvation, all of
22 which were planned and orchestrated by the government of the
23 Ottoman Empire. These horrific events are widely recognized
24 today by numerous scholars, governments, and international
25 organizations as the Armenian Genocide. This tragic event in
26 history must be acknowledged and remembered to ensure that such
27 atrocities are never repeated.

28 The concurrent resolution also expresses the Legislature's sense
29 that it is the policy of New Jersey to:

30 (1) commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official
31 recognition and remembrance;

32 (2) reject efforts to enlist, engage, or otherwise associate the
33 State of New Jersey with denial of the Armenian Genocide or any
34 other genocide; and

35 (3) encourage education and public understanding of the facts of
36 the Armenian Genocide, including the role of the United States in
37 humanitarian relief efforts, and the relevance of the Armenian
38 Genocide to modern-day crimes against humanity.