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 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
 LIA LOPEZ

**Assembly
 California Legislature
 Committee on Rules**

**BLANCA PACHECO
 CHAIR**

**VICE CHAIR
 LACKEY, TOM**

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 SANCHEZ, KATE
 ZBUR, RICK CHAVEZ

ARAMBULA, JOAQUIN (D-ALT)
 TA, TRI (R-ALT)

Monday, April 7, 2025
 10 minutes prior to Session
 State Capitol, Room 126

CONSENT AGENDA

BILL REFERRALS

1. Bill Referrals [Page 2](#)

RESOLUTIONS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2. ACR-56 (Michelle Rodriguez) | Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month. | Page 4 |
| 3. ACR-57 (Patterson) | Lexington and Concord Day. | Page 9 |
| 4. ACR-61 (Stefani) | Filicide Awareness Week. (refer/hear) | Page 12 |
| 5. HR-29 (Gabriel) | Education and Sharing Day, California. (refer/hear) | Page 15 |
| 6. HR-30 (Lowenthal) | Khmer New Year. (refer/hear) | Page 18 |

REQUESTS TO ADD URGENCY CLAUSE

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7. AB 245 (Gipson) | Property taxation: application of base year value: disaster relief. | Page 23 |
| 8. AB 354 (Michelle Rodriguez) | Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. | Page 24 |

REGULAR AGENDA

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 9. HR-25 (Harabedian) | The Armenian Genocide. | Page 25 |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|



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JOAQUIN ARAMBULA (D-ALT.)
TRI TA (R-ALT.)

Memo

To: Rules Committee Members
From: Michael Erke, Bill Referral Consultant
Date: 4/4/2025
Re: Consent Bill Referrals

Since you received your preliminary list of bill referrals, the following measures have been added to the referral list: AB 1345, ACA 3, ACA 4, ACA 7, SCR 36, and SCR 40.

REFERRAL OF BILLS TO COMMITTEE

04/07/2025

Pursuant to the Assembly Rules, the following bills were referred to committee:

<u>Assembly Bill No.</u>	<u>Committee:</u>
<u>AB 728</u>	E.S. & T.M.
<u>AB 728</u>	APPR.
<u>AB 746</u>	PUB. S.
<u>AB 746</u>	L. & E.
<u>AB 1067</u>	P.E. & R.
<u>AB 1345</u>	JUD.
<u>AB 1532</u>	C. & C.
<u>AB 1532</u>	U. & E.
<u>ACA 3</u>	H. & C.D.
<u>ACA 3</u>	HIGHER ED.
<u>ACA 4</u>	H. & C.D.
<u>ACA 4</u>	HUM. S.
<u>ACA 7</u>	HIGHER ED.
<u>ACA 7</u>	JUD.
<u>ACR 58</u>	RLS.
<u>ACR 59</u>	RLS.
<u>ACR 60</u>	PUB. S.
<u>ACR 61</u>	RLS.
<u>ACR 62</u>	RLS.
<u>HR 29</u>	RLS.
<u>HR 30</u>	RLS.
<u>SCR 18</u>	RLS.
<u>SCR 22</u>	RLS.
<u>SCR 32</u>	RLS.
<u>SCR 36</u>	RLS.
<u>SCR 39</u>	RLS.
<u>SCR 40</u>	RLS.
<u>SCR 41</u>	RLS.
<u>SCR 44</u>	RLS.

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 56

Introduced by Assembly Member Michelle Rodriguez

March 19, 2025

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 56—Relative to Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 56, as introduced, Michelle Rodriguez. Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month.

This measure would declare the month of April 2025 as Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Parkinson’s disease is a chronic, progressive
2 neurological disease and is the second most common
3 neurodegenerative disease behind Alzheimer’s disease in the United
4 States; and

5 WHEREAS, The symptoms of Parkinson’s disease vary from
6 person to person and can include tremors, slowness of movement
7 and rigidity, gait and balance difficulties, speech and swallowing
8 disturbances, cognitive impairment and dementia, mood disorders,
9 and a variety of other nonmotor symptoms; and

10 WHEREAS, Parkinson’s disease is the fastest growing
11 neurological disease in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 90,000 individuals are diagnosed
13 annually with Parkinson’s disease in North America, 50 percent
14 higher than research previously suggested; and

1 WHEREAS, There is inadequate data on the incidence and
2 prevalence of Parkinson’s disease, but it is estimated to affect
3 nearly 1,600,000 people in the United States, and that number is
4 expected to more than double by 2040; and

5 WHEREAS, Parkinson’s disease is the 15th leading cause of
6 death in the United States, according to the federal Centers for
7 Disease Control and Prevention; and

8 WHEREAS, There are millions of Americans who are
9 caregivers, family members, and friends greatly impacted by
10 Parkinson’s disease; and

11 WHEREAS, There is no known cure or drug to slow or halt the
12 progression of the disease, and available treatments are limited in
13 their ability to address patients’ medical needs and remain effective
14 over time; and

15 WHEREAS, Volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical
16 professionals are working to improve the quality of life of people
17 living with Parkinson’s disease and their families; and

18 WHEREAS, It is estimated that Parkinson’s disease costs \$52
19 billion per year, of which the federal government shoulders \$25
20 billion, leaving American families to cover the remaining amount;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, According to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for
23 Parkinson’s Research, over 120,000 people in California have
24 Parkinson’s disease, costing the state \$5.8 billion annually for
25 direct and indirect health care costs; and

26 WHEREAS, The California Parkinson’s Disease Registry was
27 created in 2017 through the state budget and became operational
28 in 2018. The California Parkinson’s Disease Registry has become
29 a model for the nation and the world as it collects patient
30 information that can help improve our understanding and treatment
31 of Parkinson’s disease; and

32 WHEREAS, Now expanded to include more data on related
33 diseases, the California Neurodegenerative Disease Registry has
34 collected hundreds of thousands of electronic records and formed
35 reporting partnerships with more than 500 reporting entities,
36 including health groups such as Sutter Health, Kaiser Permanente,
37 Dignity Health, Scripps Health, and Stanford Health Care, allowing
38 patient data to automatically be sent from the physician’s office
39 to the state. After the data is processed by the State Department
40 of Public Health, it is made available to research institutions in an

1 effort to improve treatments and eventually find a cure for the
2 disease; and

3 WHEREAS, Research suggests the cause of Parkinson’s disease
4 is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but the
5 exact cause in most individuals is still unknown; and

6 WHEREAS, Over the last 20 years, the Michael J. Fox
7 Foundation for Parkinson’s Research has raised over \$310,000,000
8 for Parkinson’s disease research in California; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2010, the Michael J. Fox Foundation launched
10 its landmark research study, the Parkinson’s Progression Markers
11 Initiative (PPMI), to better understand Parkinson’s disease and
12 advance new treatments; and

13 WHEREAS, The Michael J. Fox Foundation has provided
14 \$2,000,000 annually each to the University of California at San
15 Francisco, the University of California at San Diego, and the
16 University of Southern California to participate in the PPMI study;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, As a result of the PPMI study, in April 2023, the
19 Michael J. Fox Foundation announced the validation of the
20 first-ever biomarker for Parkinson’s disease. For the first time in
21 the living body, researchers can objectively detect an abnormal
22 protein in individuals with Parkinson’s disease, and those not yet
23 diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease who do not show clinical
24 symptoms. This discovery represents one of the most prominent
25 breakthroughs in brain disease research of the past decade; and

26 WHEREAS, Increased research, education, and community
27 support services are needed to find more effective treatments and
28 to provide access to quality care to those living with the disease
29 today; now, therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
31 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the month of
32 April 2025 as Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month in California;
33 and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
35 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O

Date of Hearing: April 7, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 56 (Michelle Rodriguez) – As Introduced March 19, 2025

SUBJECT: Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month.

SUMMARY: Recognizes the month of April 2025 as Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month in California. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Parkinson’s disease is a chronic, progressive neurological disease and is the second most common neurodegenerative disease behind Alzheimer’s disease in the United States.
- 2) The symptoms of Parkinson’s disease vary from person to person and can include tremors, slowness of movement and rigidity, gait and balance difficulties, speech and swallowing disturbances, cognitive impairment and dementia, mood disorders, and a variety of other non-motor symptoms.
- 3) Parkinson’s disease is the fastest growing neurological disease in the United States. It is estimated that 90,000 individuals are diagnosed annually with Parkinson’s disease in North America, 50 percent higher than research previously suggested.
- 4) Parkinson’s disease is the 15th leading cause of death in the United States, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There are millions of Americans who are caregivers, family members, and friends greatly impacted by Parkinson’s disease.
- 5) There is no known cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of the disease, and available treatments are limited in their ability to address patients’ medical needs and remain effective over time.
- 6) According to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research, over 120,000 people in California have Parkinson’s disease, costing the state \$5.8 billion annually for direct and indirect health care costs.
- 7) The California Parkinson’s Disease Registry was created in 2017 through the state budget and became operational in 2018. The California Parkinson’s Disease Registry has become a model for the nation and the world as it collects patient information that can help improve our understanding and treatment of Parkinson’s disease.
- 8) Research suggests the cause of Parkinson’s disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but the exact cause in most individuals is still unknown.
- 9) Increased research, education, and community support services are needed to find more effective treatments and to provide access to quality care to those living with the disease today.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 57

Introduced by Assembly Member Patterson

March 19, 2025

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 57—Relative to Lexington and Concord Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 57, as introduced, Patterson. Lexington and Concord Day.

This measure would recognize April 19, 2025, as Lexington and Concord Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On the evening of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere and
2 others riders alerted the countryside that British soldiers would be
3 leaving Boston to confiscate and destroy stored arms in Concord
4 and to arrest patriot leaders Sam Adams and John Hancock in
5 Lexington; and

6 WHEREAS, Local volunteers, mostly farmers and tradesmen
7 organized into community militias and distinguished by the term
8 “Minutemen,” answered the alarm and proceeded to Lexington
9 and Concord to await the King’s soldiers; and

10 WHEREAS, At dawn on April 19, 1775, on the Lexington
11 Green, over 700 British troops, known as “Redcoats,” approached
12 the Green and ordered the 78 patriot volunteers gathered there to
13 disperse; and

14 WHEREAS, A shot was fired, no one knows by who, that
15 signaled the start of the war for American independence and came
16 to be known as “The Shot Heard Around the World”; and

1 WHEREAS, British commanders lost control of their troops
2 and, in the ensuing skirmish on Lexington Green, eight patriot
3 volunteers were killed; and
4 WHEREAS, The Redcoats continued their march to Concord,
5 where about 400 American volunteers from local communities
6 gathered throughout the morning; and
7 WHEREAS, A battle ensued at the Old North Bridge and the
8 Redcoats were forced to quickly retreat to the center of town; and
9 WHEREAS, The Redcoats then began their march back to
10 Boston under a constant stream of fire from the American
11 volunteers; and
12 WHEREAS, The Battles of Lexington and Concord marked the
13 beginning of the American Revolution; and
14 WHEREAS, April 19, 2025, marks the 250 year anniversary of
15 the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the first battles in the
16 American Revolution; now, therefore, be it
17 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
18 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
19 recognizes April 19, 2025, as Lexington and Concord Day; and
20 be it further
21 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
22 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O

Date of Hearing: April 7, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 57 (Patterson) – As Introduced March 19, 2025

SUBJECT: Lexington and Concord Day.

SUMMARY: Recognizes April 19, 2025, as Lexington and Concord Day. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) On the evening of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere and others riders alerted the countryside that British soldiers would be leaving Boston to confiscate and destroy stored arms in Concord and to arrest patriot leaders Sam Adams and John Hancock in Lexington.
- 2) Local volunteers, mostly farmers and tradesmen organized into community militias and distinguished by the term “Minutemen,” answered the alarm and proceeded to Lexington and Concord to await the King’s soldiers.
- 3) At dawn on April 19, 1775, on the Lexington Green, over 700 British troops, known as “Redcoats,” approached the Green and ordered the 78 patriot volunteers gathered there to disperse. A shot was fired, no one knows by who, that signaled the start of the war for American independence and came to be known as “The Shot Heard Around the World.”
- 4) The Battles of Lexington and Concord marked the beginning of the American Revolution.
- 5) April 19, 2025, marks the 250 year anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the first battles in the American Revolution.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 61

Introduced by Assembly Member Stefani

April 1, 2025

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 61—Relative to Filicide Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 61, as introduced, Stefani. Filicide Awareness Week.

This measure would proclaim April 9, 2025, to April 15, 2025, inclusive, as Filicide Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The month of April has been recognized as
2 National Child Abuse Prevention Month since 1983; and

3 WHEREAS, Too many children are often targets of neglect and
4 mental, physical, and sexual abuse that occur mainly within their
5 household and, tragically, sometimes lead to filicide; and

6 WHEREAS, There are approximately 500 filicide cases in the
7 United States every year that are made all too easy by limitless
8 access to guns; and

9 WHEREAS, On average, one child per week is murdered by a
10 parent or stepparent during divorce, separation, visitation, or
11 custody negotiations; and

12 WHEREAS, Family law attorneys have the power to contribute
13 their efforts to protect minor children during these proceedings;
14 and

1 WHEREAS, The organization Pierce’s Pledge has played a
2 significant role in bringing awareness to filicide and was
3 established in honor of its namesake, Pierce Howard Hu; and

4 WHEREAS, Pierce’s Pledge was born out of the tragic killing
5 of nine-year-old Pierce Howard Hu at the hands of his father in
6 January 2021, in San Francisco’s Marina District, where Pierce
7 was shot in his sleep in a murder-suicide; and

8 WHEREAS, Pierce’s murder shattered the hearts of his mother
9 Lesley, family, friends, and the community; and

10 WHEREAS, Pierce’s Pledge is dedicated to supporting the
11 families of filicide victims in the aftermath by honoring the lives
12 of victims, engaging the community in dialogue for exposing abuse,
13 and collaborating with other service providers to expand resources
14 and increase their availability; and

15 WHEREAS, Pierce’s Pledge empowers family law attorneys to
16 contribute their efforts to protect and keep minor children safe
17 during custody negotiations and has become a leading voice in the
18 gun violence prevention space; and

19 WHEREAS, Requiring clients to disclose and temporarily
20 remove weapons to a third-party location during the time of
21 representation reduces the potential for violence, domestic abuse,
22 violent threats, uneven power struggles, and murder; now,
23 therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
26 week of April 9, 2025, to April 15, 2025, inclusive, to be Filicide
27 Awareness Week, supports the efforts of Pierce’s Pledge, and
28 encourages all family law attorneys to take Pierce’s Pledge in an
29 effort to keep all children safe; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
31 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O

Date of Hearing: April 7, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 61 (Stefani) – As Introduced April 1, 2025

SUBJECT: Filicide Awareness Week.

SUMMARY: Proclaims the week of April 9, 2025, to April 15, 2025, inclusive, to be Filicide Awareness Week, and encourages all family law attorneys to take Pierce’s Pledge in an effort to keep all children safe. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The month of April has been recognized as National Child Abuse Prevention Month since 1983. Too many children are often targets of neglect and mental, physical, and sexual abuse that occur mainly within their household and, tragically, sometimes lead to filicide.
- 2) There are approximately 500 filicide cases in the United States every year that are made all too easy by limitless access to guns. On average, one child per week is murdered by a parent or stepparent during divorce, separation, visitation, or custody negotiations.
- 3) Family law attorneys have the power to contribute their efforts to protect minor children during these proceedings. The organization Pierce’s Pledge has played a significant role in bringing awareness to filicide.
- 4) Pierce’s Pledge is dedicated to supporting the families of filicide victims in the aftermath by honoring the lives of victims, engaging the community in dialogue for exposing abuse, and collaborating with other service providers to expand resources and increase their availability.
- 5) Pierce’s Pledge empowers family law attorneys to contribute their efforts to protect and keep minor children safe during custody negotiations and has become a leading voice in the gun violence prevention space.
- 6) Requiring clients to disclose and temporarily remove weapons to a third-party location during the time of representation reduces the potential for violence, domestic abuse, violent threats, uneven power struggles, and murder.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

House Resolution

No. 29

Introduced by Assembly Member Gabriel

March 28, 2025

House Resolution No. 29—Relative to Education and Sharing Day, California.

1 WHEREAS, The basis for the continuity of any society is
2 education, and in the great State of California the education of our
3 youth is a priority; and

4 WHEREAS, In order to achieve its highest goals, education
5 must not only impart knowledge but also teach pupils and students
6 how to live, forming and strengthening their moral character to
7 make a better life for themselves as individuals and for society as
8 a whole; and

9 WHEREAS, A global spiritual leader, the Rebbe, Rabbi
10 Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, stressed that a
11 moral and ethical education empowers every individual to develop
12 their full potential in making the world a better place; and

13 WHEREAS, Such an education can nurture the unity of diverse
14 peoples through encouraging increased acts of goodness and
15 kindness, imbued with the awareness that even a single positive
16 act of an individual can change the world and usher in an era of
17 global peace; and

18 WHEREAS, “Education and Sharing Day, USA” is observed
19 each year on the Rebbe’s birthday in recognition of his outstanding
20 and lasting contributions toward the improvement of education,
21 morality, and acts of charity around the world; a day to pause and
22 reflect on our responsibility to ensure that our youth have the

1 foundation necessary to lead lives rich in purpose and fulfillment
2 through service and good works; and

3 WHEREAS, April 9, 2025, will mark 123 years since the
4 Rebbe’s birth, and this year marks the 76th anniversary of his
5 leadership of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement; and

6 WHEREAS, “Chabad” is an acronym of three Hebrew words
7 for “wisdom, understanding, and knowledge”; and

8 WHEREAS, The name “Lubavitch” comes from the city which
9 served as the movement’s headquarters for over a century and
10 means city of love; and

11 WHEREAS, In recognition of the Rebbe’s outstanding and
12 lasting contributions toward improvements in world education,
13 morality, and acts of charity, he was awarded the Congressional
14 Gold Medal, and the United States Congress has established his
15 birth date as a national day to raise awareness and strengthen the
16 education of our children; and

17 WHEREAS, For more than 40 years, the President of the United
18 States has recognized and honored the Rebbe’s vision each year
19 on that day by proclaiming it “Education and Sharing Day, USA”;
20 now, therefore, be it

21 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the*
22 *Assembly proclaims Wednesday, April 9, 2025, as “Education*
23 *and Sharing Day, California” and calls upon government officials,*
24 *educators, volunteers, and citizens to reach out to those within*
25 *their communities and work to create a better, brighter, and more*
26 *hopeful future for all; and be it further*

27 *Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies*
28 *of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.*

O

Date of Hearing: April 7, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
HR 29 (Gabriel) – As Introduced March 28, 2025

SUBJECT: Education and Sharing Day, California.

SUMMARY: Proclaims Wednesday, April 9, 2025, as “Education and Sharing Day, California” and calls upon government officials, educators, volunteers, and citizens to reach out to those within their communities and work to create a better, brighter, and more hopeful future for all. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The basis for the continuity of any society is education, and in the great State of California the education of our youth is a priority. In order to achieve its highest goals, education must not only impart knowledge but also teach pupils and students how to live, forming and strengthening their moral character to make a better life for themselves as individuals and for society as a whole.
- 2) Such an education can nurture the unity of diverse peoples through encouraging increased acts of goodness and kindness, imbued with the awareness that even a single positive act of an individual can change the world and usher in an era of global peace.
- 3) A global spiritual leader, the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, stressed that a moral and ethical education empowers every individual to develop their full potential in making the world a better place. For more than 40 years, the President of the United States has recognized and honored the Rebbe’s vision each year on his birthdate by proclaiming it “Education and Sharing Day, USA.”
- 4) “Education and Sharing Day, USA” is observed each year on the Rebbe’s birthday in recognition of his outstanding and lasting contributions toward the improvement of education, morality, and acts of charity around the world; a day to pause and reflect on our responsibility to ensure that our youth have the foundation necessary to lead lives rich in purpose and fulfillment through service and good works.
- 5) April 9, 2025, will mark 123 years since the Rebbe’s birth, and this year begins the celebrations of the 76th anniversary of his leadership of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

House Resolution

No. 30

Introduced by Assembly Member Lowenthal
(Principal coauthor: Senator Gonzalez)

April 1, 2025

House Resolution No. 30—Relative to Khmer New Year.

1 WHEREAS, The Cambodian people have a long and rich
2 cultural heritage symbolized by Angkor Wat, the temple city,
3 which flourished during the Khmer Empire from the 9th to the
4 12th centuries and was considered one of the Wonders of the
5 Ancient World, and now stands as a living icon of the endurance
6 and genius of all Cambodians throughout the world; and

7 WHEREAS, Khmer New Year, or Cambodian New Year, also
8 known as Chaul Chnam Thmey, literally meaning “Enter the New
9 Year,” also known as Moha Sangkranta, literally meaning “Great
10 Sankranti,” or Sangkranta, is the traditional celebration of the solar
11 new year in Cambodia; and

12 WHEREAS, Moha Sangkranta or Sangkranta, derived from
13 Sanskrit Sañkrānti, is the name of the first day of the new year
14 celebration. It marks the end of the year and the beginning of a
15 new one. People dress up in new clothes, light candles, and burn
16 incense sticks at shrines, where the members of each family offer
17 thanks for the Buddha’s teachings by bowing or kneeling three
18 times in front of his image. For good luck, people wash their face
19 with holy water in the morning, their chests at noon, and their feet
20 in the evening before they go to bed; and

21 WHEREAS, Veareak Vanabat is the name of the second day of
22 the new year celebration. People contribute charity to the less
23 fortunate by helping individuals experiencing homelessness and

1 low-income families, among others. Families attend a dedication
2 ceremony for their ancestors at monasteries; and

3 WHEREAS, Veareak Laeung Sak is the name of the third day
4 of the new year celebration. Buddhists wash the Buddha statues
5 and their elders with water scented with flower petals. Bathing the
6 Buddha is a symbolic practice to wash bad actions away. This
7 ritualistic act is called Srang Preah. It is also thought to be a kind
8 deed that will bring longevity, good luck, happiness, and prosperity
9 in life. By washing their grandparents and parents, the children
10 can obtain from them best wishes, blessings, and good pieces of
11 advice for the rest of the year; and

12 WHEREAS, In temples, people erect a sand hillock on temple
13 grounds. They mound up a big, pointed hill of sand or dome in the
14 center to represent Valuka Chaitya, the stupa (shrine) at the
15 Tāvātimsa (heaven) where they believe the Buddha's hair and
16 diadem are kept. The big stupa is surrounded by four small ones,
17 that represent the stupas of the Buddha's favorite disciples:
18 Sariputra, Moggallana, Ananda, and Maha Kassapa; and

19 WHEREAS, Cambodia is home to a variety of traditional games
20 played to transform the days into memorable occasions. These
21 games are similar to those played in Manipur, a state in
22 northeastern India. Throughout the Khmer New Year, street corners
23 often are crowded with friends and families enjoying a break from
24 routine, filling their free time with dancing and popular games.
25 Typically, Khmer games help maintain one's mental and physical
26 dexterity, and develop good rapport among members of the
27 community; and

28 WHEREAS, The Khmer New Year coincides with the traditional
29 solar new year in several parts of India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri
30 Lanka, Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand; and

31 WHEREAS, A three-day public holiday marks the new year,
32 which usually starts on April 13 or April 14, at the end of the
33 harvest season when farmers enjoy the fruits of their labor before
34 the rainy season begins; and

35 WHEREAS, Khmers living abroad may choose to celebrate
36 during a weekend rather than specifically April 13 through April
37 16; and

38 WHEREAS, The State of California has a large population of
39 Cambodians and the City of Long Beach is known around the

1 world as home to the largest Cambodian community outside of
2 Southeast Asia; and

3 WHEREAS, The Cambodian people have contributed to
4 communities by participating in American politics, by establishing
5 local and international businesses, by developing new art forms
6 and community organizations through their rich cultural heritage,
7 and by raising a new generation of Americans with promise to
8 advance the future of the State of California and the nation; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California,* That the
11 Assembly hereby recognizes April 14 to April 16, 2025, inclusive,
12 as Khmer New Year, and calls upon all Californians to observe
13 the new year by participating in appropriate activities and
14 programs; and be it further

15 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
16 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O

Date of Hearing: April 7, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
HR 30 (Lowenthal) – As Introduced April 1, 2025

SUBJECT: Khmer New Year.

SUMMARY: Recognizes April 14 to April 16, 2025, inclusive, as Khmer New Year, and calls upon all Californians to observe the New Year by participating in appropriate activities and programs. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The Cambodian people have a long and rich cultural heritage symbolized by Angkor Wat, the temple city, which flourished during the Khmer Empire from the 9th to the 12th centuries and was considered one of the Wonders of the Ancient World, and now stands as a living icon of the endurance and genius of all Cambodians throughout the world.
- 2) Khmer New Year, or Cambodian New Year, also known as Chaul Chnam Thmey, literally meaning “Enter the New Year,” also known as Moha Sangkranta, literally meaning “Great Sankranti,” or Sangkranta, is the traditional celebration of the solar new year in Cambodia.
- 3) Moha Sangkranta or Sangkranta, derived from Sanskrit Saṅkrānti, is the name of the first day of the New Year celebration. It marks the end of the year and the beginning of a new one. For good luck, people wash their face with holy water in the morning, their chests at noon, and their feet in the evening before they go to bed.
- 4) Veareak Vanabat is the name of the second day of the New Year celebration. People contribute charity to the less fortunate by helping individuals experiencing homelessness and low-income families, among others. Families attend a dedication ceremony for their ancestors at monasteries.
- 5) Veareak Laeung Sak is the name of the third day of the New Year celebration. Buddhists wash the Buddha statues and their elders with perfumed water. Bathing the Buddha is a symbolic practice to wash bad actions away. This ritualistic act is called Srang Preah.
- 6) In temples, people erect a sand hillock on temple grounds. They mound up a big, pointed hill of sand or dome in the center to represent Valuka Chaitya, the stupa (shrine) at the Tāvātimsa (heaven) where they believe the Buddha’s hair and diadem are kept.
- 7) The Khmer New Year coincides with the traditional solar new year in several parts of India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand. Khmers living abroad may choose to celebrate during a weekend rather than specifically April 13 through April 16.
- 8) The State of California has a large population of Cambodians and the City of Long Beach is known around the world as home to the largest Cambodian community outside of Southeast Asia.
- 9) The Cambodian people have contributed to communities by participating in American politics, by establishing local and international businesses, by developing new art forms and

community organizations through their rich cultural heritage, and by raising a new generation of Americans with promise to advance the future of the State of California and the nation.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

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March 26, 2025

Blanca Pacheco
Chair, Assembly Committee on Rules
1021 O Street, Suite 6250
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Pacheco,

I respectfully request that an urgency measure be added to AB 245.

AB 245 makes two changes to property tax law for victims of the 2025 LA Fires. The first allows victims three additional years, for a total of eight years, to rebuild their damaged or destroyed property on the same site while retaining that property's base year value. The second provides that victims do not pay property taxes for 2025 on the undamaged value of their home, simply because the fires occurred after the January 1 lien date.

To ensure these victims receive property tax relief now, and without delaying to the January 1, 2026 lien date, I respectfully request that an urgency measure be added to AB 245.

Thank you for consideration of this request. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Harrison Bowlby, Senior Consultant at (916) 319-2098.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike A. Gipson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Gipson" clearly legible.

MIKE A. GIPSON
Chair, Assembly Committee on Revenue & Taxation

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MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
RULES

Rules Committee Chair Blanca Pacheco
1021 O Street, Suite 6250
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Pacheco,

I write to respectfully request the inclusion of an urgency clause in AB 354, legislation that strengthens the training standards and oversight mechanisms of the Commission of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). This bill is necessary to ensure that critical updates to law enforcement training and certification take effect immediately, safeguarding public trust and officer accountability across California.

The urgency clause is warranted due to the pressing need for enhanced training protocols in response to ongoing concerns about public safety and law enforcement preparedness. Currently gaps in POST training leave officers without the necessary tools to address modern policing challenges, including crisis de-escalation, mental health interventions, and community engagement. Delaying implementation until the next legislative cycle would prolong those deficiencies, putting both officers and the community they serve at risk.

Furthermore, recent incidents have highlight the pressing need for uniform standards statewide. Law enforcement agencies have called for expedited updates to training programs to align with best practices and emerging threats. AB 354 ensures that these changes are enacted immediately, fostering greater professionalism and public confidence in our police forces.

Given the significant impact this legislation will have on public safety, I urge the Rules Committee to approve the urgency clause, allowing AB 354 to take effect immediately upon passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to working with you to advance this critical reform.

Sincerely,

Michelle Rodriguez, Assemblymember Fifty-Third District

House Resolution

No. 25

**Introduced by Assembly Member Harabedian
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Addis, Alanis, Calderon, Caloza,
Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick,
Haney, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Macedo, Nguyen, Ortega, Papan,
Patel, Celeste Rodriguez, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache,
Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, and Zbur)**

March 19, 2025

House Resolution No. 25—Relative to the Armenian Genocide.

1 WHEREAS, Armenians have resided in Armenian Highlands
2 for approximately four millennia, and have a long and rich history
3 in the region, including the establishment of many kingdoms, and
4 despite Armenians’ historic presence, stewardship, and autonomy
5 in the region, Turkish rulers of the Ottoman Empire and the
6 Republic of Turkey subjected Armenians to severe and unjust
7 persecution and brutality, including wholesale massacres beginning
8 in the 1890s; and
9 WHEREAS, The Armenian nation was subjected to a systematic
10 and premeditated genocide officially beginning on April 24, 1915,
11 at the hands of the Young Turk Government of the Ottoman Empire
12 from 1915 to 1919, inclusive, and continued at the hands of the
13 Kemalist Movement of Turkey from 1920 to 1923, inclusive,
14 whereby over 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children
15 were slaughtered or marched to their deaths in an effort to
16 annihilate the Armenian nation in the first genocide of modern
17 times, while thousands of surviving Armenian women and children
18 were forcibly converted and Islamized, and hundreds of thousands

1 more were subjected to ethnic cleansing during the period of the
2 modern Republic of Turkey from 1924 to 1937, inclusive; and

3 WHEREAS, During the genocides of the Christians living in
4 the Ottoman Empire and surrounding regions, which occurred
5 during the first half of the 20th century, 1.5 million men, women,
6 and children of Armenian descent, and hundreds of thousands of
7 Assyrians, Greeks, and other Christians, lost their lives at the hands
8 of the Ottoman Turkish Empire and the Republic of Turkey,
9 constituting one of the most atrocious violations of human rights
10 in the history of the world; and

11 WHEREAS, These crimes against humanity also had the
12 consequence of permanently removing all traces of the Armenians
13 and other targeted people from their historic homelands of more
14 than four millennia and enriching the perpetrators with the lands
15 and other property of the victims of these crimes, including the
16 usurpation of several thousand churches; and

17 WHEREAS, Between 1918 and 1920, the Ottoman Turkish
18 Army supported the newly established Republic of Azerbaijan in
19 displacing and massacring thousands of Armenians in Baku,
20 Shushi, and Nakhichevan, highlighting the Ottoman Turkish
21 Empire's goal of erasing Armenians from their own territories and
22 that of neighboring states' territories; and

23 WHEREAS, In response to the genocide and at the behest of
24 President Woodrow Wilson and the United States Department of
25 State, the Near East Relief organization was founded and became
26 the first congressionally sanctioned American philanthropic effort
27 created exclusively to provide humanitarian assistance and rescue
28 to the Armenian nation and other Christian minorities from
29 annihilation, who went on to survive and thrive outside of their
30 ancestral homeland all over the world and specifically in this state;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, Near East Relief succeeded, with the active
33 participation of the citizens from this state, in delivering \$117
34 million in assistance, and saving more than one million refugees,
35 including 132,000 orphans, between 1915 and 1930, by delivering
36 food, clothing, and materials for shelter, setting up refugee camps,
37 clinics, hospitals, and orphanages; and

38 WHEREAS, The Armenian nation survived the genocide despite
39 the attempt by the Ottoman Empire to exterminate it; and

1 WHEREAS, Adolf Hitler, in persuading army commanders that
2 the merciless persecution and killing of Jews, Poles, and other
3 people would bring no retribution, declared, “Who, after all, speaks
4 today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”; and

5 WHEREAS, On November 4, 1918, immediately after the
6 collapse of the Young Turk regime and before the founding of the
7 Republic of Turkey by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk in 1923, the
8 Ottoman Parliament considered a motion on the crimes committed
9 by the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP) stating: “A
10 population of one million people guilty of nothing except belonging
11 to the Armenian nation were massacred and exterminated,
12 including even women and children.” The Minister of Interior at
13 the time, Fethi Bey, responded by telling the Parliament: “It is the
14 intention of the government to cure every single injustice done up
15 until now, as far as the means allow, to make possible the return
16 to their homes of those sent into exile, and to compensate for their
17 material loss as far as possible”; and

18 WHEREAS, On August 1, 1926, in an interview published in
19 the Los Angeles Examiner, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk admitted:
20 “These left-overs from the former Young Turk Party, who should
21 have been made to account for the lives of millions of our Christian
22 subjects who were ruthlessly driven en masse, from their homes
23 and massacred, have been restive under the Republican rule. They
24 have hitherto lived on plunder, robbery and bribery and become
25 inimical to any idea or suggestion to enlist in useful labor and earn
26 their living by the honest sweat of their brow”; and

27 WHEREAS, The Parliamentary Investigative Committee
28 proceeded to collect relevant documents describing the actions of
29 those responsible for the Armenian mass killings and turned them
30 over to the Turkish Military Tribunal. CUP’s leading figures were
31 found guilty of massacring Armenians and hanged or given lengthy
32 prison sentences. The Turkish Military Tribunal requested that
33 Germany extradite to Turkey the masterminds of the massacres
34 who had fled the country. After German refusal, they were tried
35 in absentia and sentenced to death; and

36 WHEREAS, Unlike other people and governments that have
37 admitted and denounced the abuses and crimes of predecessor
38 regimes, and despite the Turkish government’s earlier admissions
39 and the overwhelming proof of genocidal intent, the Republic of
40 Turkey inexplicably and adamantly has denied the occurrence of

1 the crimes against humanity committed by the Ottoman and Young
2 Turk rulers for many years, and continues to do so a full century
3 since the first crimes constituting genocide occurred; and

4 WHEREAS, Those denials compound the grief of the few
5 remaining survivors and deprive the surviving Armenian nation
6 of its individual and collective ancestral lands, property, cultural
7 heritage, financial assets, and population growth; and

8 WHEREAS, The Republic of Turkey has escalated its
9 international campaign of Armenian Genocide denial and increased
10 its pressure on the small but growing movement in Turkey
11 acknowledging the Armenian Genocide and seeking justice for
12 this systematic campaign of destruction of millions of Armenians
13 and other Christians upon their biblical-era homelands; and

14 WHEREAS, Those citizens of Turkey, both Armenian and
15 non-Armenian, who continue to speak the truth about the Armenian
16 Genocide, such as assassinated human rights activist and journalist
17 Hrant Dink, continue to be silenced by violent means; and

18 WHEREAS, There is continued concern about the welfare of
19 Christians in the Republic of Turkey, their right to worship and
20 practice freely, and the legal status and condition of thousands of
21 ancient Armenian churches, monasteries, cemeteries, and other
22 historical and cultural structures, sites, and antiquities in the
23 Republic of Turkey; and

24 WHEREAS, The United States is on record as having officially
25 recognized the Armenian Genocide in the United States
26 government's May 28, 1951, written statement to the International
27 Court of Justice regarding the Reservations to the Convention on
28 the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, through
29 President Ronald Reagan's April 22, 1981, Proclamation No. 4838,
30 and by congressional legislation including House Joint Resolution
31 148 adopted on April 9, 1975, and House Joint Resolution 247
32 adopted on September 12, 1984; and

33 WHEREAS, Prior to the Convention on the Prevention and
34 Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the United States had a
35 record of seeking just and constructive means to address the
36 consequences of the Ottoman Empire's intentional destruction of
37 the Armenian people, including through United States Senate
38 Concurrent Resolution 12 adopted on February 9, 1916, United
39 States Senate Resolution 359 adopted on May 11, 1920, and
40 President Woodrow Wilson's November 22, 1920, decision titled,

1 “The Frontier between Armenia and Turkey,” which was issued
2 as a binding arbitral award, yet has not been enforced to this date
3 despite its legally binding status; and

4 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama entered office “calling
5 for Turkey’s acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide” and on
6 April 24, 2013, and similarly on April 24, 2014, the president
7 further stated, “A full, frank, and just acknowledgment of the facts
8 is in all of our interests. Peoples and nations grow stronger, and
9 build a more just and tolerant future, by acknowledging and
10 reckoning with painful elements of the past”; and

11 WHEREAS, President Joe Biden, on April 24, 2021, became
12 the first United States President to officially recognize the
13 Armenian Genocide, stating, “The American people honor all those
14 Armenians who perished in the genocide that began 106 years ago
15 today... We honor their story. We see that pain. We affirm the
16 history. We do this not to cast blame but to ensure that what
17 happened is never repeated”; and

18 WHEREAS, California is home to the largest Armenian
19 American population in the United States, and Armenians living
20 in California have enriched our state through their leadership and
21 contribution in business, agriculture, academia, government, and
22 the arts, many of whom have family members who experienced
23 firsthand the horror and evil of the Armenian Genocide and its
24 ongoing denial; and

25 WHEREAS, Every person should be made aware and educated
26 about the Armenian Genocide and other crimes against humanity
27 to prevent them from occurring in the 21st century; and

28 WHEREAS, The State of California has been at the forefront
29 of encouraging and promoting a curriculum relating to human
30 rights and genocide in order to empower future generations to
31 prevent the recurrence of genocide; and

32 WHEREAS, April 24, 1915, is globally observed and recognized
33 as the commencement of the Armenian Genocide; and

34 WHEREAS, Armenians in California and throughout the world
35 have not been provided with justice for the crimes perpetrated
36 against the Armenian nation despite the fact that over a century
37 has passed since the crimes were first committed; and

38 WHEREAS, To this day, the Armenian people continue to face
39 a threat to their very existence in their ancestral lands at the hands
40 of Turkey and Azerbaijan, seen during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh

1 war with the perpetration of horrific war crimes and the ethnic
2 cleansing of the region’s indigenous Armenian population, in
3 addition to Azerbaijan’s invasion and occupation of Armenia’s
4 sovereign territory in September 2022, and the blockade of the
5 Lachin Corridor that left 120,000 Armenians without access to
6 food, fuel, medicine, and other humanitarian goods for over three
7 months; and

8 WHEREAS, Following the illegal blockade, the Armenians of
9 Artsakh endured a vicious, large-scale assault by the Aliyev regime
10 of Azerbaijan in September 2023 that resulted in the forced
11 displacement of more than 100,000 Armenians from Artsakh; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That April
14 24, 2025, be recognized as “State of California Day of
15 Commemoration of the 110th Anniversary of the Armenian
16 Genocide of 1915–1923”; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Assembly commends its conscientious
18 educators who teach about human rights and genocide and intends
19 for them, through this resolution, to continue to enhance their
20 efforts to educate students at all levels about the experience of the
21 Armenians and other crimes against humanity; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Assembly hereby commends the
23 extraordinary service that was delivered by Near East Relief to the
24 survivors of the Armenian Genocide, including thousands of direct
25 beneficiaries of American philanthropy who are the parents,
26 grandparents, and great-grandparents of many Californian
27 Armenians, and pledges its intent, through this resolution, to
28 working with community groups, nonprofit organizations, citizens,
29 state personnel, and the community at large to host statewide
30 educational and cultural events; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the Assembly deplores the persistent, ongoing
32 efforts by any person, in this country or abroad, to deny the
33 historical fact of the Armenian Genocide; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
35 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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Date of Hearing: April 7, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
HR 25 (Harabedian) – As Introduced March 19, 2025

SUBJECT: The Armenian Genocide.

SUMMARY: Recognizes April 24, 2025, as “State of California Day of Commemoration of the 110th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923;” and, commends educators who teach about human rights and genocide and intends for them to continue to enhance their efforts to educate students at all levels about the experience of the Armenians and other crimes against humanity. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Armenians have resided in the Armenian Highlands for approximately four millennia, and have a long and rich history in the region, including the establishment of many kingdoms, and despite Armenians’ historic presence, stewardship, and autonomy in the region, Turkish rulers of the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey subjected Armenians to severe and unjust persecution and brutality, including wholesale massacres beginning in the 1890s.
- 2) The Armenian nation was subjected to a systematic and premeditated genocide officially beginning on April 24, 1915, at the hands of the Young Turk Government of the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1919, inclusive, and continued at the hands of the Kemalist Movement of Turkey from 1920 to 1923, inclusive, whereby over 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children were slaughtered or marched to their deaths in an effort to annihilate the Armenian nation in the first genocide of modern times, while thousands of surviving Armenian women and children were forcibly converted and Islamized, and hundreds of thousands more were subjected to ethnic cleansing during the period of the modern Republic of Turkey from 1924 to 1937.
- 3) California is home to the largest Armenian American population in the United States, and Armenians living in California have enriched our state through their leadership and contribution in business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts, many of whom have family members who experienced firsthand the horror and evil of the Armenian Genocide and its ongoing denial.
- 4) Every person should be made aware and educated about the Armenian Genocide and other crimes against humanity. The State of California has been at the forefront of encouraging and promoting a curriculum relating to human rights and genocide in order to empower future generations to prevent the recurrence of genocide.
- 5) April 24, 1915, is globally observed and recognized as the commencement of the Armenian Genocide.
- 6) Armenians in California and throughout the world have not been provided with justice for the crimes perpetrated against the Armenian nation despite the fact that over a century has passed since the crimes were first committed.

- 7) To this day, the Armenian people continue to face a threat to their very existence in their ancestral lands at the hands of Turkey and Azerbaijan, seen during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war with the perpetration of horrific war crimes and the ethnic cleansing of the region's indigenous Armenian population, in addition to Azerbaijan's invasion and occupation of Armenia's sovereign territory in September 2022, and the ongoing blockade of the Lachin Corridor that has left 120,000 Armenians without access to food, fuel, medicine, and other humanitarian goods for over three months.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

California Turkish Alliance
Turkish Consulate General

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

March 31, 2025

Honorable Chairman and member of the committee

Every year, resolutions and bills related to the Armenian Genocide resurface, such as HR 25 and SR 33, which the Turkish community strongly opposes. For over thirty years, I have testified at the State Capitol, advocating against these measures. However, I have grown disillusioned with the democratic process, which now seems dominated by lobbyists and special interest groups, ultimately failing to protect minority rights.

I can provide thousands of undeniable documents that prove the events in Eastern Anatolia were not a genocide. However, I will share just two documents that you can easily verify and consider for yourself:

1. In July 1923, former Armenian Prime Minister Katchaznoui addressed the Armenian Assembly in Bucharest. He stated:

“In the fall of 1914, Armenian volunteer bands organized themselves and fought against the Turks. Because they could not refrain from organizing and from fighting. This was an inevitable result of the psychology on which the Armenian people had nourished themselves for an entire generation. We did not doubt that the war would end with the complete victory of the Allies; Turkey would be defeated and dismembered, and its Armenian population would, at last, be liberated.”

2. Rear Admiral M.L. Bristol, while serving as the United States High Commissioner in Turkey, reported:

“I see that reports are being freely circulated in the United States that the Turks massacred thousands of Armenians in the Caucasus. Such reports are repeated so many times that it makes my blood boil. The Near East Relief has reports from Yarrow and our American people that show these Armenian reports are

false. The circulation of such false reports in the United States, without refutation, is an outrage...”

(Source: U.S. Library of Congress: Bristol Papers – General Correspondence, Container #34, Dated 28 March 1921.)

Some California lawmakers have turned the Armenian Genocide issue into a political tool, fostering anti-Turkish sentiment within the Armenian community for their own gain. Opposing this narrative has become politically untenable for many lawmakers, resulting in the continued perpetuation of a one-sided historical account—even one that is now taught to children. Despite repeated efforts by the Turkish government to propose independent evaluations of the issue, these offers have been rejected.

I urge you to vote NO on HR 25 and SR 33. Additionally, I have repeatedly called on lawmakers of Armenian descent to collaborate on resolutions that promote unity and combat hate propaganda, but no progress has been made.

I am available to provide further information or meet to discuss this matter in detail. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss this further.

California Turkish Alliance

Rep. Karahan Mete

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The Hon. Blanca Pacheco
California State Assembly
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 24, 2025

Dear Assembly Member,

I am reaching out to formally express our opposition to the AR25, entitled “Relative to Armenian Genocide”, which you will elaborate at the Committee on Rules.

AR25, in substance, almost remains identical to the version introduced last year. Year after year, a nearly identical bill is introduced in the California Assembly, making only minor revisions but consistently disregarding the Turkish perspective. These resolutions, I am afraid, present a one-sided narrative, treating complex historical events as if they were the final ruling of a court, rather than an issue that remains the subject of scholarly and historical debate.

International legal scholars, including the 1948 UN Genocide Convention’s drafting committee, have refrained from legally designating events of 1915 as genocide. Furthermore, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), in *Perinçek v. Switzerland* (2015), ruled that the Armenian genocide allegation is a matter of historical and political debate rather than a legally established fact. In substance, there is no such verdict given by a competent court regarding the events of 1915, to be described as “genocide”. Therefore, Californian politicians should rather avoid acting like prosecutors or judges to accuse others or give verdicts on historical events.

Contrary to the divisive tone of this resolution, Türkiye and Armenia have been working on normalization process and fostering regional stability. These efforts show that the two nations are seeking common ground rather than being trapped in historical grievances. Even Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan explicitly stated that international recognition of “genocide” is not a foreign policy priority for Yerevan.

Then this raises an important question: If both countries have engaged in direct dialogue, opening communication channels, and expressing willingness to move forward in favor of peace and cooperation, why is the California State Assembly choosing to do the opposite? Legislators thousands of miles away from the region should not be dictating a historical narrative, and undermine these diplomatic efforts by adopting a resolution.

Such politically motivated resolutions create an atmosphere of division and hatred. Turkish Americans, many of whom are proud and peaceful members of California’s diverse society, are frequently subjected to hostility due to the spread of anti-Turkish rhetoric. This has led to cases of vandalism against Turkish businesses, threats, and even physical assaults on Turkish individuals, including diplomats (attack at USC in September 2023). I believe no need to mention that 3 Turkish diplomats were killed in California by Armenian American extremists before.

1

California, as a state that prides itself on diversity and inclusivity, is home to a significant number of both Armenian and Turkish Americans. Instead of passing resolutions that divide these communities, lawmakers should promote initiatives that bring them together. Recognition of pain and suffering should be inclusive and balanced, acknowledging the hardships experienced by all groups rather than placing blame on one side.

The passage of this resolution would send the wrong message—one that prioritizes hostility over peace. The Armenian and Turkish people deserve better. They deserve policies that support dialogue, coexistence, and a shared future, rather than legislation that perpetuates animosity.

Sincerely yours,



Sinan Kuzum
Turkish Consul General