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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 99 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY CAPPELLETTI, KEARNEY, STREET, FONTANA, HUGHES,  
PHILLIPS-HILL AND COSTA, APRIL 27, 2021

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 27, 2021

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 24, 2021, as "Pennsylvania's Day of  
2 Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923."

3 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania joins human rights  
4 advocates and historians from around the world to recognize and  
5 mourn the 1.5 million Armenians who perished in the Armenian  
6 Genocide as ordered by the government of the Ottoman Empire,  
7 which began on April 24, 1915, with the arrest, exile and murder  
8 of hundreds of Armenian intellectuals and political, religious  
9 and business leaders; and

10 WHEREAS, During the 1915-1923 Genocide, Armenian survivors  
11 were forced to witness the slaughter of their relatives and the  
12 loss of their ancestral land and property in what is now known  
13 as the "First Genocide of the 20th Century"; and

14 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania declared in 1965  
15 that April 24 of each year will serve as a day of remembrance of  
16 the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923; and

17 WHEREAS, The failure to learn from the past allows history to  
18 repeat itself as the world saw during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabagh

1 War when the military forces of Azerbaijan and Turkey attacked  
2 the Armenian civilian population of Nagorno-Karabagh and its  
3 churches and civic buildings, resulting in casualties and loss  
4 of ancestral land and property, motivated by the same genocidal  
5 campaign that their ancestors suffered 106 years earlier; and

6 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is proud to join  
7 the Armenian-American community of Pennsylvania in its  
8 commemoration of the 106th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide  
9 in an effort to educate others about the tragic loss of life,  
10 land and human rights of the Armenian people and the crimes of  
11 genocide committed against them, as well as Greeks and  
12 Assyrians, due to religious and political beliefs; therefore be  
13 it

14 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
15 designate April 24, 2021, as "Pennsylvania's Day of Remembrance  
16 of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923"; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge all residents of Pennsylvania  
18 to join in this solemn remembrance in memory of the victims of  
19 the Armenian Genocide and in honor of the survivors and their  
20 descendants; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate affirm the right of Christians and  
22 all the residents of the Artsakh Republic to practice their  
23 faith in freedom and without fear of foreign aggression; and be  
24 it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the right to self-  
26 determination and independence of the Artsakh Republic, and  
27 respectfully urge the President and Congress of the United  
28 States to do the same; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
30 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each

1 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.