

1 HJR79  
2 196243-3  
3 By Representatives Fridy, Rowe, Whorton, Pettus, Kiel, Moore  
4 (P), Estes, Lipscomb, Holmes, Mooney, Carns, Hill and  
5 Standridge  
6 RFD: Rules  
7 First Read: 02-APR-19

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 DESIGNATING APRIL AS GENOCIDE PREVENTION AND  
4 AWARENESS MONTH IN RECOGNITION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE AND  
5 THE IMPORTANCE OF REMEMBRANCE.

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7 WHEREAS, from 1915-1923 during the Armenian  
8 Genocide, one and one-half million ethnic Armenian Christian  
9 men, women, and children as well as over one million Greeks,  
10 Assyrians, Syriacs, and others were massacred as part of the  
11 planned complete eradication of those indigenous communities  
12 by the Ottoman Turkish Empire during the first modern  
13 genocide; and

14 WHEREAS, other cases of genocide followed, including  
15 the Holocaust, the killings in Cambodia in 1975, the massacres  
16 in Bosnia in 1992, the slaughter in Rwanda in 1994, and now in  
17 the 21st century, the displacements and deaths in Darfur as  
18 well as targeting of religious minorities by the Islamic State  
19 of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in the Middle East; and

20 WHEREAS, during World War II, a Polish lawyer of  
21 Jewish decent, Raphael Lemkin, first coined the term  
22 "genocide" to describe a coordinated plan of actions with the  
23 purpose of annihilating a group itself by disintegrating a  
24 group's social institutions, culture, language, national or  
25 ethnic identities, religion, and economic existence while also

destroying the personal security, liberty, health, and dignity, as well as the lives, of individuals belonging to the group; and

WHEREAS, recognition and remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, and all cases of past and ongoing genocide is a critical step in ensuring that similar atrocities do not occur again and that we remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and

WHEREAS, Alabama is home to many Armenian families, and Armenian-Americans living in Alabama have greatly enriched the state through their leadership in business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, due to the loss of uncountable thousands of Armenians and much of their ancient homelands, the memory of the Armenian people and their struggles is now especially necessary in order to preserve their unique history and culture which they have shared with the world; and

WHEREAS, a special committee was formed in Constantinople in March 1919 by a group of Ottoman Armenian survivors, and because of that committee's efforts, the memory of the victims of Armenian genocide was commemorated for the first time among the Armenians of Constantinople in April 1919; and

WHEREAS, throughout history, numerous genocides originated or stemmed from events that occurred in April, and

1 as a result, many institutions around the world have  
2 designated April to be a month of genocide prevention and  
3 awareness; and

4 WHEREAS, Governor Kay Ivey, on March 20, 2019,  
5 proclaimed April 2019 as Genocide Awareness Month in  
6 recognition of the Armenian Genocide; now therefore,

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
8 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body does hereby  
9 recognize the month of April 2019 as Genocide Awareness Month  
10 in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the first  
11 remembrance of the Armenian genocide.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this body joins in the  
13 mourning of humanity's darkest moments and in the celebration  
14 of the survival of the Armenian peoples and other victims of  
15 genocide, and does hereby offer prayers and hope for peace in  
16 the world.

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4 Speaker of the House of Representatives

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6 President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

7 House of Representatives

8 I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
9 and was adopted by the House 04-APR-19.

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Jeff Woodard  
Clerk

Senate

16-APR-19

Adopted