

# SENATE BILL No. 395

April 19, 2001, Introduced by Senators MC COTTER, HART, DINGELL, BULLARD, BENNETT, SCHUETTE, PETERS and LELAND and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to establish the Michigan days of remembrance of the Armenian genocide.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1       Sec. 1. (1) The legislature recognizes that 1,500,000 men,  
2 women, and children of Armenian descent--more than 1/2 of the  
3 Armenian population at the time--were victims of a brutal geno-  
4 cide perpetrated by the Turkish Ottoman Empire from 1915-1923.  
5 The Armenian genocide represented a deliberate attempt to elimi-  
6 nate all traces of a thriving noble civilization over 3,000 years  
7 old.

8       (2) Recognition of the anniversary of this genocide and open  
9 condemnation of these crimes against an entire people are crucial  
10 to ensure against the repetition of similar future atrocities  
11 committed against any culture of people.

1           (3) Armenians all over the world commemorate this great  
2 tragedy on April 24, because it was on that day in 1915 when 300  
3 Armenian leaders, writers, thinkers, and professionals in  
4 Constantinople (present-day Istanbul) were rounded up, deported,  
5 and killed. Also on that day, 5,000 of the poorest Armenians  
6 were butchered in the streets and in their homes.

7           Sec. 2. (1) The legislature declares that April 24 of each  
8 year shall be the Michigan day of remembrance of the Armenian  
9 genocide of 1915-1923, and that the period beginning on the  
10 Sunday before that day through the following Sunday shall be the  
11 days of remembrance in this state, in memory of the victims of  
12 the genocide, and in honor of the survivors.

13           (2) The legislature encourages the public schools of this  
14 state to develop educational programs similar to those already  
15 established in California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New  
16 Jersey, and New York that focus on human rights, with specific  
17 attention given to the Armenian genocide.