

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4—SENATOR CEGAVSKE

FEBRUARY 12, 2013

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN HARDY AND OHRENSCHALL

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Urges the Government of Turkey to grant the Ecumenical Patriarch international recognition and to respect the human rights and property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. (BDR R-885)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the Government of Turkey to grant the Ecumenical Patriarch international recognition and to respect the human rights and property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

1 WHEREAS, The Ecumenical Patriarchate, located in Istanbul,
2 Turkey, is the Sacred See that presides in a spirit of brotherhood
3 over a communion of self-governing churches of the Orthodox
4 Christian world; and

5 WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the See leader,
6 cosponsored the Conference on Peace and Tolerance in 1994 and
7 2005, fostering an interfaith dialogue among Christian, Jewish and
8 Muslim religious leaders to help end regional ethnic conflicts; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1997, the United States Congress awarded
10 Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew the Congressional Gold Medal;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The Orthodox Christian Church, in existence for
13 nearly 2,000 years, numbers approximately 300 million members
14 worldwide with more than 2 million members in the United States;
15 and



* S J R 4 R 1 *

1 WHEREAS, Since 1453, the presence of the Ecumenical
2 Patriarchate as international head of the Greek Orthodox Church in
3 Turkey testifies to religious coexistence; and

4 WHEREAS, The Turkish Government has limited those able to
5 hold the office of Ecumenical Patriarch to Turkish nationals,
6 threatening the viability of succession; and

7 WHEREAS, The Turkish Government confiscated a large
8 percentage of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's and the Greek
9 community's properties, placed a high tax on one of the
10 Patriarchate's charity hospitals, the Baloukli Hospital and Home for
11 the Aged, and closed the Theological School of Halki in 1971,
12 impeding Orthodox clergy training; and

13 WHEREAS, The European Council is involved in ongoing
14 accession negotiations with Turkey, and the Turkish Government's
15 current treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is inconsistent with
16 the defined membership criteria for accession to the European
17 Union; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
19 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 77th Session of the
20 Nevada Legislature do hereby urge the Government of Turkey to
21 uphold and safeguard religious and human rights without
22 compromise, to grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate
23 international recognition, including ecclesiastic succession and the
24 right to train clergy of all nationalities, and to respect the human
25 rights and property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, including
26 cessation of discrimination; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
28 transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United
29 States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding
30 officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
31 Representatives, the United States Ambassador to the Republic of
32 Turkey, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United
33 States and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation;
34 and be it further

35 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
36 passage.

