

**SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-FIRST SESSION**

**S.F. No. 2864**

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OFFICIAL STATUS  
Introduction and first reading  
Referred to State Government Finance and Policy and Elections

1.1 A resolution  
1.2 recognizing the independence of the Republic of Artsakh, encouraging the Republic  
1.3 of Artsakh to continue its efforts to develop as a free and independent nation, urging  
1.4 the President and United States Congress to support the self-determination and  
1.5 democratic independence of the Republic of Artsakh, and designating May 5 as the  
1.6 day of statewide recognition of the Republic of Artsakh and the contributions of  
1.7 Armenian and Artsakhi individuals to the state of Minnesota.

1.8 WHEREAS, the Republic of Artsakh, formerly known as the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic,  
1.9 located within the South Caucasus region of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, declared its  
1.10 independence on September 2, 1991, following the dissolution of the Soviet Union; and

1.11 WHEREAS, on December 10, 1991, the people of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic voted  
1.12 in favor of independence, and on January 6, 1992, the democratically elected legislature of the  
1.13 republic formally declared independence; and

1.14 WHEREAS, the Republic of Artsakh has historically been Armenian territory, populated by  
1.15 an overwhelming majority of Armenians, and yet was illegally separated from Armenia by the  
1.16 Soviet Union in 1921 and placed under the newly created Soviet Azerbaijani administration; and

1.17 WHEREAS, the Republic of Artsakh has fought to maintain its independence and achieve  
1.18 international recognition despite military and political efforts by neighboring Azerbaijan, escalating  
1.19 into armed conflict and resulting in civilian casualties, internally displaced persons, and human  
1.20 rights violations between 1991 and 1994; and

1.21 WHEREAS, the Republic of Artsakh has continued to remain devoted to maintaining a  
1.22 representative democratic government with political and civil rights for all citizens, holding free  
1.23 and open elections as assessed by international observers; and

1.24 WHEREAS, the Republic of Artsakh has been recognized by eight states including California,  
1.25 Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Rhode Island, and on May 5,

2.1 2016, the Government of Armenia approved a bill on recognition of the independence of the Republic  
2.2 of Artsakh; and

2.3 WHEREAS, many Armenian and Artsakhi families have long called the state of Minnesota  
2.4 their home and were welcomed in during the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide from 1914 to  
2.5 1923, and have contributed to the culture, economy, and overall prosperity of the state of Minnesota;  
2.6 and

2.7 WHEREAS, the state of Minnesota has a long-standing tradition and history of supporting  
2.8 democracies, oppressed minority groups, and human rights throughout the world; NOW,  
2.9 THEREFORE,

2.10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate of the State  
2.11 of Minnesota that it recognizes the independence of the Republic of Artsakh and encourages the  
2.12 Republic of Artsakh to continue to develop as a free and independent country, and formally calls  
2.13 upon the President and United States Congress to recognize the independence of the Republic of  
2.14 Artsakh for the purpose of strengthening cultural and economic ties with the Republic of Artsakh  
2.15 and bringing peace and stability to the South Caucasus region, and designates May 5 as the day of  
2.16 statewide recognition of the Republic of Artsakh and the contributions of Armenian and Artsakhi  
2.17 individuals to the state of Minnesota.

2.18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed  
2.19 to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President of the United States, the  
2.20 President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United  
2.21 States House of Representatives, the chair of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the chair  
2.22 of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in  
2.23 Congress.