First Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
2.13.13

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LLS NO. R13-0843.01 Effie Ameen x2044 **Joint Resolution**

Capital Development Committee

SHORT TITLE: "Armenian Garden Replica Khachkar Approval"

COMMITTEE JOINT RESOLUTION

101 CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION OF A REPLICA KHACHKAR AND
102 EXPLANATORY PLAQUE IN THE RENOVATED ARMENIAN GARDEN
103 ON THE CAPITOL GROUNDS.

1 WHEREAS, The State Capitol and its grounds contain memorials
2 to the state's political past as well as memorabilia promoting the state's
3 natural environment and history of events, individuals, and ethnic groups;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, From time to time, proposals for gifts of art and
6 memorials are made to the state to be placed in the State Capitol or on its
7 grounds; and

8 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 92-213 directed the State Capitol

Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

Building Advisory Committee to establish criteria and a procedure for the evaluation of proposals for gifts of memorials for placement in the State Capitol or on its grounds; and

WHEREAS, The State Capitol Building Advisory Committee's evaluation criteria for a memorial is based partly upon the association the proposed memorial has with a significant event in the state's history, the connection of the memorial with persons significant in the heritage of the state, and its appropriateness to the designated area of the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, The procedure stipulates that, if the Capital Development Committee and the Governor concur with the State Capitol Building Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the placement of memorials on the State Capitol grounds, the Capital Development Committee may make its recommendation for acceptance of the donated art to the General Assembly in the form of a joint resolution introduced during an annual legislative session; and

WHEREAS, The State Capitol Building Advisory Committee, the Capital Development Committee, and the Governor have approved a plan for placement of a replica khachkar and an accompanying explanatory plaque in the renovated Armenian Garden on the State Capitol grounds; and

WHEREAS, The proposed language for the explanatory plaque reads as follows: "This memorial honors the victims and descendants of the 1915 Armenian Genocide on the 100th anniversary of that great tragedy. The genocide prompted Coloradans to come to the aid of the remaining few who became known as "the starving Armenians." This Armenian cultural monument is a replica of a khachkar, crafted in 1583, from the medieval Armenian cemetery in Djulfa. The largest collection of these intricately carved khachkars, located in the Djulfa cemetery, was destroyed in 2005. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has since recognized the value and vulnerability of this art form by declaring it part of the intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity."; and

WHEREAS, The replica khachkar in the renovated Armenian Garden would serve to memorialize the victims of the 1915 Armenian genocide; now, therefore,

1 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly*
2 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

3 That we, the members of the General Assembly, do hereby
4 approve of the plan recommended by the State Capitol Building Advisory
5 Committee, the Capital Development Committee, and the Governor for
6 the installation of a replica khachkar with an accompanying explanatory
7 plaque in the renovated Armenian Garden.

8 *Be It Further Resolved,* That a copy of this joint resolution be
9 transmitted to the Governor, the State Capitol Building Advisory
10 Committee, the Capital Development Committee, and the Armenians of
11 Colorado Board of Directors.