

**2012 -- H 8180**

=====  
LC02637  
=====

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012**

---

**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**SUPPORTING THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH REPUBLIC'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP AS A  
FREE AND INDEPENDENT NATION**

Introduced By: Representatives Fox, Mattiello, Corvese, McNamara, and Bennett

Date Introduced: May 17, 2012

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, The Region of Artsakh, also known as Mountainous Karabagh, is located in  
2 the Transcaucasus and has historically been Armenian territory, populated by an overwhelming  
3 majority of Armenians; and

4           WHEREAS, In 1923, the communist dictatorship of Joseph Stalin, in violation of the  
5 national, territorial, and human rights of the Armenian people, annexed part of the region of  
6 Artsakh which was composed of a 95 percent Armenian population, and joined it with the region  
7 of Soviet Azerbaijan; and

8           WHEREAS, For decades, Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, having arbitrarily been  
9 severed from Armenia and forced under Soviet Azerbaijani administration, peacefully  
10 demonstrated for national independence and individual freedom and against Soviet Azerbaijani  
11 repression and discrimination; and

12           WHEREAS, In the years immediately preceding the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's  
13 declaration of independence, these peaceful demonstrations were met with acts of violent  
14 repression by Soviet Azerbaijani forces who refused to allow the reestablishment of the people of  
15 Nagorno-Karabakh's national independence; and

16           WHEREAS, During the repressive and violent events leading to the birth of the Nagorno-  
17 Karabakh Republic, ethnic Armenians were killed in Sumgait (February, 1988), Kirovabad  
18 (November, 1988), and Baku (January, 1990), by Soviet Azerbaijani forces. Over 350,000  
19 Armenians were forcibly deported from Azerbaijan; and

1           WHEREAS, In July of 1988, within months of the Sumgait tragedy, the United States  
2 Senate unanimously passed Amendment 2690 to the Fiscal Year 1989 Foreign Operations  
3 Appropriations bill (H.R. 4782), concerning the Karabakh conflict and calling on the Soviet  
4 government to "respect the legitimate aspirations of the Armenian people ..." and noted that  
5 "dozens of Armenians have been killed and hundreds injured during the recent unrests ..."; and

6           WHEREAS, The Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh would not be deterred and would not  
7 allow their dream of national independence, and their inherent desire for individual freedom, to  
8 be destroyed by violence and repression; and

9           WHEREAS, On December 10<sup>th</sup> of 1991, despite continued violence against the people of  
10 Nagorno-Karabakh, a popular referendum proclaiming the republic took place in Nagorno-  
11 Karabakh during the process of the Soviet Union disintegration; and

12           WHEREAS, Under the watchful eye of more than 50 international observers and in full  
13 compliance with international standards for free and fair elections, more than 80 percent of the  
14 eligible voters in Nagorno-Karabakh cast a ballot. Ninety-eight percent of those casting ballots  
15 overwhelmingly chose national independence and individual freedom, thereby choosing the path  
16 of democracy after decades of communist control; and

17           WHEREAS, The population of Nagorno-Karabakh then held free, democratic, and direct  
18 elections for its parliament; and

19           WHEREAS, On January 6<sup>th</sup> of 1992, the first-ever freely elected Parliament of Nagorno-  
20 Karabakh adopted a Declaration of Independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic; and

21           WHEREAS, From the earliest days of its formation, the Republic's freely elected  
22 governmental bodies have continuously striven to build an open and democratic society through  
23 free and transparent elections, affirmed by international observers; and

24           WHEREAS, Since signing a cease-fire agreement with Azerbaijan in 1994, after three  
25 years of armed conflict, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic registered significant progress in post-  
26 war humanitarian and economic development; and

27           WHEREAS, Despite the 1994 cease-fire agreement, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's  
28 security and sovereignty continue to be threatened by regional tension and hostile acts; now,  
29 therefore be it

30           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
31 Providence Plantations hereby encourages the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's continuing efforts  
32 to develop as a free and independent nation in order to guarantee its citizens those rights inherent  
33 in a free and independent society; and be it further

34           RESOLVED, That this House hereby supports the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's

1 continued constructive involvement with the international community and its efforts to reach a  
2 lasting solution to the existing regional problems, and to establish peace and stability in the  
3 strategically important region of South Caucasus; and be it further

4         RESOLVED, That this House hereby respectfully urges the President and Congress of  
5 the United States of America to recognize the independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic  
6 and to encourage nations neighboring the Republic to foster and maintain peaceful relations with  
7 the people of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. We furthermore urge our country's leaders to  
8 continue promoting humanitarian and economic rehabilitation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic  
9 and to fully support its continuing development of a free and democratic society, with all the  
10 social, economic, and political advantages that such a free and democratic society brings to its  
11 citizens; and be it further

12         RESOLVED, That this House hereby memorializes the United States of America to  
13 support strengthening and solidifying our country's relationship with the Nagorno-Karabakh  
14 Republic and its citizens, both culturally and economically, to insure the continued survival of  
15 this nation's burgeoning growth of freedom and democracy; and be it further

16         RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
17 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the President of the United States and to Rhode  
18 Island's Congressional Delegation.

=====  
LC02637  
=====