

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# House Resolution No. 1365

## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES BAHR (Sponsor), JONES (89), LEACH, McCAHERTY, BERRY,  
TILLEY, ELLINGER, LASATER, BURLISON, KOENIG, ATKINS,  
OXFORD AND KELLEY (126) (Co-sponsors).

5844H.011

2           **WHEREAS**, the Orthodox Christian Church, in existence for nearly 2,000 years,  
3 numbers approximately 300 million members worldwide, with more than 2 million members in  
4 the United States;

5           **WHEREAS**, since 1453, the continuing presence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in  
6 Turkey has been a living testament to the religious coexistence of Christians and Muslims; and

7  
8           **WHEREAS**, this religious coexistence is in doubt because the Ecumenical Patriarchate  
9 is considered a minority religion by the Turkish government; and

10  
11           **WHEREAS**, there were millions of Orthodox Christians living in Turkey at the turn of  
12 the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but there remain fewer than 3,000 in Turkey today; and

13  
14           **WHEREAS**, Orthodox Christians in Missouri and throughout the United States stand  
15 to lose their spiritual leader; and

16  
17           **WHEREAS**, while there have been difficulties in the past with the relationship of the  
18 Orthodox Christian Church and the Turkish government, certain recent actions by the Turkish  
19 government suggest an interest in improving its relationship with and treatment of the Orthodox  
20 Christian Church, and such actions are acknowledged and welcomed; and

21  
22           **WHEREAS**, the people of Missouri desire to encourage continued dialogue and  
23 communication between the leadership of the Turkish government and the Orthodox Christian  
24 Church, such as recent high-level meetings between Turkish officials and the Ecumenical  
25 Patriarchate:

26

27           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri  
28 House of Representatives, Ninety-sixth General Assembly, hereby urge the government of  
29 Turkey to uphold and safeguard religious and human rights of all its citizens without  
30 compromise, to grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate international recognition,  
31 ecclesiastical succession, and the right to train clergy of all nationalities, and to respect the  
32 property rights and human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and all religious and faith  
33 traditions.

34

35           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
36 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution.

✓