

**A-Engrossed**  
**Senate Joint Resolution 16**

Ordered by the Senate May 4  
Including Senate Amendments dated May 4

Sponsored by Senators MONROE, STARR

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

*[Designates osprey (Pandion haliaetus) as official state bird.]*

**Expresses Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly's support for efforts of Ecumenical Patriarchate to promote peaceful coexistence of Christians and Muslims in Republic of Turkey. Requests Republic of Turkey to uphold and safeguard religious and human rights and to grant Ecumenical Patriarch rights and independence to carry on work of Ecumenical Patriarchate.**

**JOINT RESOLUTION**

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

5       Whereas the See is led by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who is the 270th in direct suc-  
6 cession to the Apostle Andrew and holds titular primacy as primus inter pares, meaning "first  
7 among equals," in the community of Orthodox churches worldwide; and

8       Whereas in 1994, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, along with leaders of the Appeal of Con-  
9 science Foundation, cosponsored the Conference on Peace and Tolerance, which brought together  
10 Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders for an interfaith dialogue to help end the Balkan  
11 conflict and the ethnic conflict in the Caucasus region; and

12       Whereas in 1997, the Congress of the United States awarded Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew  
13 with the Congressional Gold Medal; and

14       Whereas following the terrorist attacks on our nation on September 11, 2001, Ecumenical Pa-  
15 triarch Bartholomew gathered a group of international religious leaders to produce the first joint  
16 statement with Muslim leaders that condemned the 9/11 attacks as "antireligious"; and

17       Whereas in October 2005, the Ecumenical Patriarch, along with Christian, Jewish and Muslim  
18 leaders, cosponsored the Conference on Peace and Tolerance II to further promote peace and sta-  
19 bility in southeastern Europe, the Caucasus region and Central Asia via religious leaders' interfaith  
20 dialogue, understanding, and action; and

21       Whereas the Orthodox Christian Church, in existence for nearly 2,000 years, numbers approxi-  
22 mately 300 million members worldwide with more than 2 million members in the United States; and

23       Whereas since 1453, the continuous presence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul has  
24 been a living testament to the religious coexistence of Christians and Muslims; and

25       Whereas this religious coexistence is in jeopardy because the Ecumenical Patriarchate is con-  
26 sidered by the government of the Republic of Turkey to be the head of the Greek minority in

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Istanbul exclusively, rather than the head of the Greek Orthodox Church; and

2 Whereas the Turkish government has limited the candidates available to hold the office of  
3 Ecumenical Patriarch to only Turkish nationals, and there remain fewer than 2,000 Orthodox  
4 Christians living in Turkey today; and

5 Whereas the Turkish government closed the Orthodox Christian theological school on the island  
6 of Halki in 1971 and has refused to allow it to reopen, thus impeding training for Orthodox Christian  
7 clergy; and

8 Whereas the Turkish government does not recognize the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a legal  
9 entity, and is therefore confiscating all of its properties along with the majority of the property  
10 belonging to the Greek community and its parishes, and imposing high taxes on the Balouki Hospital  
11 and Home for the Aged, a charity hospital; and

12 Whereas the European Union, a group of nations with a common goal of promoting peace and  
13 the well-being of its peoples, began accession negotiations with the Republic of Turkey on October  
14 3, 2005; and

15 Whereas the European Union defined membership criteria for accession at the Copenhagen  
16 European Council in 1993, obligating candidate countries to achieve certain levels of reform, in-  
17 cluding stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, adherence to the rule of law and respect  
18 for and protection of minorities, human rights and religious rights; and

19 Whereas the Turkish government's current treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is incon-  
20 sistent with the membership conditions and goals of the European Union; and

21 Whereas Orthodox Christians in Oregon and throughout the United States stand to lose their  
22 spiritual leader because of the deliberate actions of the Turkish government; and

23 Whereas the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle,  
24 a group of laymen who each have been honored with a patriarchal title, or "offikion," by the  
25 Ecumenical Patriarch for their outstanding service to the Orthodox Christian Church, will send an  
26 American delegation to Turkey to meet with Turkish government officials, as well as the United  
27 States Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, regarding the Turkish government's treatment of the  
28 Ecumenical Patriarchate; now, therefore,

29 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

30 That we, the members of the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly, support the efforts of the  
31 Ecumenical Patriarchate to promote the peaceful coexistence of Christians and Muslims and re-  
32 spectfully request that the Republic of Turkey uphold and safeguard religious and human rights and  
33 grant to the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate rights and independence to carry on the work of the  
34 Ecumenical Patriarchate in perpetuity.

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