

HJR

32

<TARGET><BILL>HJR 32</BILL><SUBJECT>HJR
32</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA28</COMM></TARGET>

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32(STA)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States government to condemn violent acts of religious persecution**
2 **and seek a peaceful resolution to the conflicts in Syria.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** thousands of Alaskans have strong spiritual and historical bonds with the
5 people of Syria and the Holy Land; and

6 **WHEREAS** thousands of Alaskans are members of the Orthodox Christian Church, a
7 faith that has been in Alaska since 1794, and are members of the same faith as those of the
8 Orthodox Church in Syria and the Holy Land; and

9 **WHEREAS** thousands of Alaskans are Roman Catholic Christians and have been
10 called by Pope Francis in his Christmas prayer to pray for the suffering people of Syria and to
11 work toward peace; and

12 **WHEREAS** thousands of Alaskans are Protestant Christians who have a deep concern
13 for and pray for the people of Syria, as expressed in articles concerning Syria by the Voice of
14 the Martyrs, a nonprofit interdenominational Christian organization; and

15 **WHEREAS** Alaskans are saddened and outraged by the crimes against humanity in
16 Syria, including such atrocities as the murder of innocent women and children, the massacre

1 of Christians in jihadi attacks, the burning and desecration of over 90 Christian churches, the
 2 kidnapping of Bishops Youhanna Ibrahim and Boulos Yazigi, the recent abduction of Mother
 3 Pelagia Sayaf and the orphan children she cares for at Saint Tecla monastery, the forced
 4 conversion of peaceful Syrians to Islam or death to those who do not convert, and the
 5 dislocation of hundreds of thousands of Christians from their homeland; and

6 **WHEREAS** Syria has been the beloved homeland of Christian people, beginning with
 7 the presence of Jesus Christ in 33 A.D., and the Christian Church in Damascus and
 8 throughout Syria is expressly mentioned in the New Testament; and

9 **WHEREAS**, although many western governments and the mass media demonstrate an
 10 indifference to the impending demise of Christian people in the land of the birth of
 11 Christianity and the crimes against the Syrian people, Alaskans take a courageous stand for
 12 peace and protection for the Syrian people against terrorism;

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
 14 government to condemn violent acts of religious persecution and seek a peaceful resolution to
 15 the conflicts in Syria.

16 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
 17 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
 18 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John F. Kerry, United States Secretary of State;
 19 General Martin E. Dempsey, Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Honorable Robert
 20 Menendez, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; the Honorable Barbara
 21 Mikulski, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations; the Honorable Dave Camp,
 22 Chair of the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee; the Honorable Bob Corker, ranking
 23 member, U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and
 24 the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
 25 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the
 26 United States Senate.

28-LS1532\N
Bullock
3/21/14

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TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

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25 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the
26 United States Senate.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
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REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Joint Resolution 32

“An Act urging the United States Government to take decisive and concrete action and condemn the violent acts of religious persecution and bring a peaceful resolution to the conflicts in Syria.”

Alaskans have a rich tradition of willingness to live and let live – to respect our mutual right to believe and behave as our conscience dictates. This appreciation for our neighbors and their various religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds is an essential element of our state character, and informs our belief that there are few differences that cannot be resolved peaceably.

Alaskans also have a strong connection with and sympathy for the residents of what is sometimes known as the Holy Land –countries such as Israel, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria that are the birthplace of Christianity, in which the tremendous events documented in the Old and New Testament occurred.

Those of many faiths in Alaska have therefore been saddened and outraged by the tragic consequences of the ongoing civil war in Syria, which have included the murder of innocent women and children, the kidnapping and massacre of Christians, and the systematic destruction of Christian churches.

Alaskans across the state pray for the protection of the Syrian people, and rightly condemn acts of religious persecution perpetrated against the Christian leaders and families in their homeland of Syria.

HJR 32 expresses the solidarity of the Alaska people with the peace-loving people of Syria in opposition to the atrocities occurring in that nation, and urges the United States government to condemn the violent acts of religious persecution and bring a peaceful resolution to these conflicts.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HJR 32
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HJR32-LEG-SESS-03-28-14
Title: PROTECTION OF CHRISTIAN SYRIANS
Sponsor: SADDLER
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Alaska Legislature
Appropriation: Legislative Operating Budget
Allocation: Session Expenses
OMB Component Number: 782

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues								
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency?
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Initial Version

Prepared By: <u>Jessica Geary, Finance Manager</u>	Phone: <u>(907)465-6626</u>
Division: <u>Legislative Affairs Agency</u>	Date: <u>03/28/2014 04:48 PM</u>
Approved By: <u>Pamela Varni, Executive Director</u>	Date: <u>03/28/14</u>
Agency: <u>Legislative Affairs Agency</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HJR32

Analysis

This legislation has zero fiscal impact on the Legislative Affairs Agency.

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REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 20, 2014

TO: Representative Bob Lynn, Chair
House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Dan Saddler 

RE: Hearing Request for HJR 32 – Protection of Christian Syrians

I respectfully request a hearing for HJR 32 – Protection of Christian Syrians, in the House State Affairs Committee at your earliest convenience.

Please contact Kim Skipper in my office for additional information at 465-6598.

We will not need any special equipment for the bill hearing.