

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 17, 2008

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 81

**Introduced by Assembly Members Price, Bass, Carter, Davis,
Dymally, and Swanson**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Aghazarian, Arambula, Beall, Benoit, Berg, Berryhill, Blakeslee, Brownley, Caballero, Charles Calderon, Cook, Coto, De La Torre, De Leon, DeSaulnier, DeVore, Duvall, Emmerson, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fuentes, Fuller, Gaines, Galgiani, Garcia, Garrick, Hancock, Hayashi, Hernandez, Horton, Houston, Huff, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Keene, Krekorian, La Malfa, Laird, Leno, Levine, Lieu, Ma, Maze, Mendoza, Mullin, Nakanishi, Nava, Niello, Nunez, Parra, Plescia, Portantino, Sharon Runner, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Silva, Smyth, Solorio, Spitzer, Strickland, Torrico, Tran, Villines, Walters, and Wolk)

January 7, 2008

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 81—Relative to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 81, as amended, Price. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

This measure would honor the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and commemorate the observance of his birthday, January 21, 2008, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Renowned civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther
2 King, Jr., was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15, 1929; and
3 WHEREAS, In 1948, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., received his
4 bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Morehouse College; in
5 1951, he received his bachelor of divinity degree from Crozer
6 Theological Seminary, as valedictorian and student body president;
7 and in 1955, he was awarded a doctorate in systematic theology
8 from Boston University; and
9 WHEREAS, Dr. King married Coretta Scott on June 18, 1953;
10 and
11 WHEREAS, Dr. King was ordained pastor of Dexter Avenue
12 Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1954; and
13 WHEREAS, Five days after Rosa Parks' arrest for refusing to
14 comply with segregation on buses in Montgomery, on December
15 5, 1955, Dr. King was elected president of the Montgomery
16 Improvement Association, and the Montgomery Bus Boycott
17 began; and
18 WHEREAS, During the boycott, Dr. King gained national
19 prominence as an exceptional leader with extraordinary oratorical
20 skills and personal courage; and
21 WHEREAS, On December 20, 1956, the United States Supreme
22 Court declared Alabama's segregation laws unconstitutional, and
23 Montgomery buses were desegregated; and
24 WHEREAS, In 1957, Dr. King and other southern African
25 American ministers founded the Southern Christian Leadership
26 Conference, and elected Dr. King as their president; and
27 WHEREAS, Dr. King led the 1957 Prayer Pilgrimage for
28 Freedom in Washington, D.C., and subsequently published his
29 first book, *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*; and
30 WHEREAS, In 1959, Dr. King toured India, where he learned
31 more about Gandhian strategies of nonviolence and developed his
32 own theories about achieving social change through nonviolent
33 resistance; and
34 WHEREAS, During mass demonstrations in 1963 organized by
35 Dr. King and his staff in Birmingham, Alabama, images of brutality
36 inflicted on African American demonstrators by police using police
37 dogs and firehoses shocked the world; and
38 WHEREAS, Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream"
39 speech on August 28, 1963, at the "March on Washington for Jobs
40 and Freedom"; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo,
2 Norway, in 1964, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was enacted
3 as a direct result of his efforts; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1965, Dr. King led the march from Selma,
5 Alabama, to Montgomery, and President Lyndon B. Johnson signed
6 the first Voting Rights Act; and

7 WHEREAS, On April 4, 1968, while in Memphis, Tennessee,
8 assisting striking sanitation workers, Dr. King was assassinated;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, United States Representative John Conyers
11 introduced legislation in Congress four days later proposing Dr.
12 King's birthday as a holiday; and

13 WHEREAS, On April 10, 1970, California became the first
14 state to pass legislation making Dr. King's birthday a school
15 holiday; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite resistance to the creation of a new national
17 holiday, the diligence and perseverance of United States
18 Representative John Conyers and numerous others in pursuing this
19 goal culminated when on November 2, 1983, President Ronald
20 Reagan signed legislation making Dr. King's birthday a national
21 holiday; and

22 WHEREAS, January 20, 1986, marked the first observance of
23 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day; and

24 WHEREAS, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., devoted his
25 life to fight segregation and injustice by nonviolent means, and is
26 an outstanding example of courageous leadership in the face of
27 unrelenting violence and harassment by individuals and
28 government institutions; and

29 WHEREAS, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is a source
30 of inspiration for all Americans; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
32 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the State of California
33 honors the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and
34 commemorates the observance of his birthday, January 21, 2008,
35 as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

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