

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 5

Introduced by Assembly Member Davis
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bradford, Carter, Hall, Mitchell,
and Swanson)
(Coauthors: Senators Price and Wright)

January 12, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 5—Relative to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 5, as introduced, Davis. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

This measure would designate that January 17, 2011, be observed as the official memorial of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth, commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Civil Rights Movement in changing public policy in California and in the United States of America.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Monday, January 17, 2011, marks the 25th National
2 Celebration of the National Holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King,
3 Jr. and his fight for civil and human rights; and
4 WHEREAS, On Saturday, January 15, 2011, Dr. Martin Luther
5 King, Jr. would have been 82 years of age; and
6 WHEREAS, On April 10, 1970, California became the first
7 state to pass legislation making Dr. King's birthday a school
8 holiday and, subsequently, a statewide holiday; and
9 WHEREAS, Representative John Conyers (D-Michigan)
10 submitted the first legislation for a national Martin Luther King,

1 Jr. Holiday, which was signed into law by President Ronald Wilson
2 Reagan, on November 2, 1983; and

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

5 WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement helped
6 change public policy from segregation to integration, resulting in
7 the repeal of the post-Reconstruction era state laws mandating
8 racial segregation in the South known as the “Jim Crow Laws,”
9 thereby leading to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the
10 Voting Rights Act of 1965, and other antidiscrimination laws aimed
11 at ending economic, legal, and social segregation in America; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement helped
13 change public policy from legal and socially acceptable
14 discrimination and segregation to an open and accessible policy
15 of racial integration leading to equal participation and access to
16 primary and higher education, housing, employment, transportation,
17 federal, state, and local governmental elections, and other aspects
18 of public policy relating to human rights; and

19 WHEREAS, These public policy changes at the national level
20 influenced many changes in California that culminated in the
21 passage of the Unruh Civil Rights Act and the Rumford Fair
22 Housing Act, in open enrollment and access to higher education
23 specifically with respect to the California State University and the
24 University of California, and in employment and labor laws,
25 transportation policy, election laws, and other aspects of public
26 policy; and

27 WHEREAS, The unfinished business of Dr. King and the Civil
28 Rights Movement was and is the plight of the poor, the fight against
29 war and for worldwide peace, and the struggle for a fair, equitable,
30 and sensible economic system; and

31 WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement noted
32 that a majority of Americans lived below the poverty line, and that
33 the huge income gaps between rich and poor called for “changes
34 in the structure of our society”; and

35 WHEREAS, Dr. King, in the last months of his life, began
36 organizing a Poor People’s Campaign to, among other things,
37 assemble “a multiracial army of the poor that would descend on
38 Washington—engaging in nonviolent civil disobedience at the
39 Capitol, if need be—until Congress enacted a poor people’s bill
40 of rights”; and

1 WHEREAS, All of the aforementioned concerns and more
2 continue to be the quest of civil and human rights organizations
3 in the great State of California, across America, and throughout
4 the world; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. fought to change public
6 policy from the “self-inflicted wound of segregation to the
7 pluralistic diverse democracy” we continue to construct today; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights
9 Movement serve as a model for principled leadership and
10 forward-thinking, bipartisan public policy; now, therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
12 *thereof concurring*, That Monday, January 17, 2011, be observed
13 as the official memorial of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birth and
14 his work in the Civil Rights Movement; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That this day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the
16 Civil Rights Movement be commemorated for their help in
17 changing public policy from segregation to integration, for the
18 betterment of this, the great State of California and these United
19 States of America; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature encourages all
21 Americans to pay tribute to the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther
22 King, Jr. through participation in community service projects on
23 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature recognizes the inherent
25 value of community service and volunteerism in the creation of a
26 civil society and as a means of nonviolent community progress
27 consistent with the works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and be
28 it further

29 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature recognizes the benefits
30 of the collaborative work by many organizations that promote,
31 facilitate, and carry out needed service projects nationwide; and
32 be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature encourages its
34 members and colleagues to urge their constituents to participate
35 in community service projects; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature acknowledges that,
37 by serving one’s country, one’s community, and one’s neighbor,
38 our nation makes progress in civility, equality, and unity consistent
39 with the values and life’s work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and
40 be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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