

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 20, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 5

Introduced by Assembly Member Davis

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bradford, Carter, Hall, Mitchell, and Swanson) Swanson, Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Charles Calderon, Campos, Cedillo, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Gorell, Grove, Hagman, Harkey, Hayashi, Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jones, Knight, Lara, Logue, Ma, Mansoor, Mendoza, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

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

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

15 WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement helped
16 change public policy from segregation to integration, resulting in
17 the repeal of the post-Reconstruction era state laws mandating
18 racial segregation in the South known as the "Jim Crow Laws,"
19 thereby leading to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the
20 Voting Rights Act of 1965, and other antidiscrimination laws aimed
21 at ending economic, legal, and social segregation in America; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement helped
23 change public policy from legal and socially acceptable
24 discrimination and segregation to an open and accessible policy
25 of racial integration leading to equal participation and access to
26 primary and higher education, housing, employment, transportation,
27 federal, state, and local governmental elections, and other aspects
28 of public policy relating to human rights; and

29 WHEREAS, These public policy changes at the national level
30 influenced many changes in California that culminated in the
31 passage of the Unruh Civil Rights Act and the Rumford Fair
32 Housing Act, in open enrollment and access to higher education
33 specifically with respect to the California State University and the
34 University of California, and in employment and labor laws,
35 transportation policy, election laws, and other aspects of public
36 policy; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolved, That the California Legislature recognizes the benefits of the collaborative work by many organizations that promote,

1 facilitate, and carry out needed service projects nationwide; and
2 be it further

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

6 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature acknowledges that,
7 by serving one's country, one's community, and one's neighbor,
8 our nation makes progress in civility, equality, and unity consistent
9 with the values and life's work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and
10 be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
12 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.