

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 87

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

January 5, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 87—Relative to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 87, as introduced, Bradford. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

This measure would designate that January 16, 2012, 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 16, 2012, marks the 26th 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, 2012, Dr. Martin Luther
5 King, Jr. would have been 83 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,

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The unfinished business of Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement was and is the plight of the poor, the fight against war and for worldwide peace, and the struggle for a fair, equitable, 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

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 16, 2012, 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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