

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 10, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

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 amended, 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~~ *Sunday*, January 15, 2012, Dr. Martin
- 5 Luther 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

1 WHEREAS, Representative John Conyers (D-Michigan)
2 submitted the first legislation for a national Martin Luther King,
3 Jr. Holiday, which was signed into law by President Ronald Wilson
4 Reagan, on November 2, 1983; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 WHEREAS, Dr. King, in the last months of his life, began
38 organizing a Poor People’s Campaign to, among other things,
39 assemble “a multiracial army of the poor that would descend on
40 Washington—engaging in nonviolent civil disobedience at the

1 Capitol, if need be—until Congress enacted a poor people’s bill
2 of rights”; and

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

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

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

13 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
14 *thereof concurring*, That Monday, January 16, 2012, be observed
15 as the official memorial of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birth and
16 his work in the Civil Rights Movement; and be it further

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

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

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

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

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

38 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature acknowledges that,
39 by serving one’s country, one’s community, and one’s neighbor,
40 our nation makes progress in civility, equality, and unity consistent

- 1 with the values and life's work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and
- 2 be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.