

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 18, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 2

Introduced by Assembly Member Mitchell

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bradford, Brown, Hall, Holden, Jones-Sawyer, ~~and Weber~~ Weber, Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Cooley, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Hagman, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Jones, Levine, Linder, Logue, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Mansoor, Medina, Melendez, Morrell, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Torres, Wagner, Waldron, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)

(Coauthors: Senators Price and Wright)

January 9, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 2—Relative to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 2, as amended, Mitchell. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

This measure would designate that January 21, 2013, be observed as the official memorial of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth and commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and 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. This measure would also recognize the anniversaries of the Emancipation

Proclamation and the March on Washington in connection with the advancement of civil rights.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, This year, 2013, marks the anniversary of two
2 important anniversaries in the history of African Americans in the
3 United States, the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation
4 Proclamation in 1863 and the 50th anniversary of March on
5 Washington in 1963; and

6 WHEREAS, The Emancipation Proclamation, a wartime
7 measure issued by President Abraham Lincoln, freed relatively
8 few slaves, but it fueled the fire of the enslaved to strike for their
9 freedom, often by enlisting in the Union Army, in an effort to
10 dismantle the “peculiar institution” of slavery; and

11 WHEREAS, One hundred years after the Emancipation
12 Proclamation, on August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
13 and others organized hundreds of thousands of blacks and whites,
14 Jews and gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, in a march to the
15 Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. where Dr. King made his
16 famous “I Have a Dream” speech announcing that the days of
17 segregation in the United States were numbered; and

18 WHEREAS, Monday, January 21, 2013, marks the 27th National
19 Celebration of the National Holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King,
20 Jr. and his fight for civil and human rights; and

21 WHEREAS, On Tuesday, January 15, 2013, Dr. Martin Luther
22 King, Jr. would have been 84 years of age; and

23 WHEREAS, On April 10, 1970, California became the first
24 state to pass legislation making Dr. King’s birthday a school
25 holiday and, subsequently, a statewide holiday; and

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

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

32 WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement helped
33 change public policy from segregation to integration, resulting in
34 the repeal of the post-Reconstruction era state laws mandating
35 racial segregation in the South known as the “Jim Crow Laws,”
36 thereby leading to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the

1 Voting Rights Act of 1965, and other antidiscrimination laws aimed
2 at ending economic, legal, and social segregation in America; and
3 WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement helped
4 change public policy from legal and socially acceptable
5 discrimination and segregation to an open and accessible policy
6 of racial integration leading to equal participation and access to
7 primary and higher education, housing, employment, transportation,
8 federal, state, and local governmental elections, and other aspects
9 of public policy relating to human rights; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
5 *thereof concurring*, That Monday, January 21, 2013, be observed
6 as the official memorial of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth and
7 his work in the Civil Rights Movement; and be it further

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

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

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

22 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature recognizes the benefits
23 of the collaborative work by many organizations that promote,
24 facilitate, and carry out needed service projects nationwide; and
25 be it further

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

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

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

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