

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 16, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 5**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Burke, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Perea, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)*

December 17, 2014

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 5, as amended, Jones-Sawyer. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

This measure would designate that January 19, 2015, 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. King and the Civil Rights Movement in changing public policy in California and in the United States of America.

Fiscal committee: no.

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

8 WHEREAS, Monday, January 19, 2015, marks the 29th National  
9 Celebration of the National Holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King,  
10 Jr. and his fight for civil and human rights; and

11 WHEREAS, On Thursday, January 15, 2015, Dr. King would  
12 have been 86 years of age; and

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

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

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

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

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

36 WHEREAS, These public policy changes at the national level  
37 influenced many changes in California that culminated in the  
38 passage of the Unruh Civil Rights Act and the Rumford Fair  
39 Housing Act, in open enrollment and access to higher education  
40 specifically with respect to the California State University and the

1 University of California, and in employment and labor laws,  
2 transportation policy, election laws, and other aspects of public  
3 policy; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
29 *thereof concurring*, That Monday, January 19, 2015, be observed  
30 as the official memorial of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birth and  
31 his work in the Civil Rights Movement; and be it further

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

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

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

5 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature recognizes the benefits  
6 of the collaborative work by many organizations that promote,  
7 facilitate, and carry out needed service projects nationwide; and  
8 be it further

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

12 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature acknowledges that,  
13 by serving one’s country, one’s community, and one’s neighbor,  
14 our nation makes progress in civility, equality, and unity consistent  
15 with the values and life’s work of Dr. King; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
17 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.  
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**CORRECTIONS:**

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