

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 14, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 107

**Introduced by Assembly Members Wright, Vincent,
Washington, Wesson, Senator Hughes and Senator Murray**
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aanestad, Ackerman,
Alquist, Aroner, Bates, Bock, Briggs, Cardenas, Cardoza,
Cedillo, Corbett, Correa, Cox, Davis, Dickerson, Ducheny,
Dutra, Florez, Frusetta, Gallegos, Granlund, Havice,
Honda, Jackson, Kaloogian, Keeley, Knox, Kuehl, Leach,
Longville, Machado, Maddox, Maldonado, Mazzoni,
McClintock, Migden, Nakano, Olberg, Oller, Robert
Pacheco, Rod Pacheco, Papan, Pescetti, Reyes, Scott,
Shelley, Soto, Steinberg, Strickland, Strom-Martin,
Thomson, Torlakson, Wayne, Wiggins, Wildman, and
Zettel)*

January 10, 2000

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 107—Relative to Dr.
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 107, as amended, R. Wright. Dr. Martin Luther King,
Jr. Day.

This measure would honor the late Reverend Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr., and commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King,
Jr. Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Renowned civil rights leader Martin
2 Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta on January 15, 1929;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, In 1948, Martin Luther King, Jr. received
5 his bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Morehouse
6 College, in 1951, he received his bachelor of divinity
7 degree from Crozer Theological Seminary, as
8 valedictorian and student body president, and in 1955, he
9 was awarded a doctorate in systematic theology from
10 Boston University; and

11 WHEREAS, King married Coretta Scott on June 18,
12 1953; and

13 WHEREAS, King was ordained pastor of Dexter
14 Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery Alabama in 1954;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Five days after Rosa Parks' arrest for
17 refusing to comply with segregation on buses in
18 Montgomery, on December 5, 1955, King was elected
19 president of the Montgomery Improvement Association
20 and the Montgomery Bus Boycott began; and

21 WHEREAS, During the boycott, King gained national
22 prominence as an exceptional leader with extraordinary
23 oratorical skills and personal courage; and

24 WHEREAS, On December 20, 1956, the United States
25 Supreme Court declared Alabama's segregation laws
26 unconstitutional and Montgomery buses were
27 desegregated; and

28 WHEREAS, In 1957, King and other southern
29 African-American ministers founded the Southern
30 Christian Leadership Conference, and elected King as
31 president; and

32 WHEREAS, King led the 1957 Prayer Pilgrimage for
33 Freedom in Washington, D.C., and subsequently
34 published his first book, *Stride Toward Freedom: The
35 Montgomery Story*; and

36 WHEREAS, In 1959, King toured India, where he
37 learned more about the philosophy of nonviolence of
38 Mohandas K. Gandhi and developed his own theories
39 about achieving social change through nonviolent
40 resistance; and



1 WHEREAS, During mass demonstrations in 1963
2 organized by Dr. King and his staff in Birmingham,
3 Alabama, images of brutality inflicted on
4 African-American demonstrators by police using police
5 dogs and firehoses shocked the world; and

6 WHEREAS, King delivered his famous “I Have a
7 Dream” speech on August 28, 1963, at the March on
8 Washington for Jobs and Freedom; and

9 WHEREAS, Reverend King received the Nobel Peace
10 Prize in Oslo, Norway in 1964, and the Civil Rights Act of
11 1964 was enacted as a direct result of Dr. King’s work; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1965, King led the march from Selma to
13 Montgomery, and President Johnson signed the federal
14 Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Section 1971, Title 42, United
15 States Code); and

16 WHEREAS, On April 4, 1968, while in Memphis
17 assisting striking sanitation workers, King was
18 assassinated; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative John Conyers introduced
20 legislation in Congress four days later proposing Dr.
21 King’s birthday as a holiday; and

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

25 WHEREAS, Despite resistance to the creation of a new
26 national holiday, the diligence and perseverance of
27 Representative John Conyers and numerous others in
28 pursuing this goal culminated when on November 2, 1983,
29 President Ronald Reagan signed legislation making
30 King’s birthday a national holiday; and

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

33 WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
34 devoted his life to fight segregation and injustice by
35 nonviolent means, and is an outstanding example of
36 courageous leadership in the face of unrelenting violence
37 and harassment by individuals and government
38 institutions; and



1 WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
2 is a source of inspiration for all Americans; now, therefore,
3 be it
4 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*
5 *Senate thereof concurring,* That the California State
6 Legislature honors the late Reverend Dr. Luther Martin
7 King, Jr., and commemorates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
8 Day.

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