

**Introduced by Senators Price and Wright**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bradford, Carter, Davis, Hall, Mitchell,  
and Swanson)

January 6, 2011

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3—Relative to Martin Luther  
King, Jr. Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 3, as introduced, Price. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

This measure would designate that January 17, 2011, 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 17, 2011, marks the 25th 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, 2011, Dr. Martin Luther
- 5 King, Jr. would have been 82 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,
- 11 Jr. Holiday, which was signed into law by President Ronald Wilson
- 12 Reagan, on November 2, 1983; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 WHEREAS, All of the aforementioned concerns and more  
40 continue to be the quest of civil and human rights organizations

1 in the great State of California, across America, and throughout  
2 the world; and

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

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

9 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
10 *thereof concurring*, That Monday, January 17, 2011, be observed  
11 as the official memorial of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birth and  
12 his work in the Civil Rights Movement; and be it further

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

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

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

27 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature recognizes the benefits  
28 of the collaborative work by many organizations that promote,  
29 facilitate, and carry out needed service projects nationwide; and  
30 be it further

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

34 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature acknowledges that,  
35 by serving one’s country, one’s community, and one’s neighbor,  
36 our nation makes progress in civility, equality, and unity consistent  
37 with the values and life’s work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and  
38 be it further

- 1     *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2     this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.