



SPONSOR: Sen. Brown on behalf of all Senators & Rep. Bolden on
behalf of all Representatives

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF "DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY".

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

3 WHEREAS, in 1948, Dr. King received his bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Morehouse College; in
4 1951, he received his bachelor of divinity degree from Crozer Theological Seminary, as valedictorian and student body
5 president; and in 1955, he was awarded a doctorate in systematic theology from Boston University; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. King married Coretta Scott on June 18, 1953; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. King was ordained pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1954;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, 5 days after Rosa Parks' arrest for refusing to comply with segregation on buses in Montgomery, on
10 December 5, 1955, Dr. King was elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association and the Montgomery Bus
11 Boycott began; and

12 WHEREAS, during the boycott, Dr. King gained national prominence as an exceptional leader with extraordinary
13 oratorical skills and personal courage; and

14 WHEREAS, on December 20, 1956, the United States Supreme Court declared Alabama's segregation law
15 unconstitutional and Montgomery buses were desegregated; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1957, Dr. King and other southern African American ministers founded the Southern Christian
17 Leadership Conference and elected Dr. King as president; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. King led the 1957 Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom in Washington, D.C., and subsequently
19 published his first book titled, "Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story"; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1959, Dr. King toured India, where he learned more about the philosophy of nonviolence of
21 Mohandas K. Gandhi and developed his own theories about achieving social change through nonviolent resistance; and

22 WHEREAS, during mass demonstrations in 1963 organized by Dr. King and his staff in Birmingham, Alabama,
23 images of brutality inflicted on African American demonstrators by police using police dogs and firehoses shocked the
24 world; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on August 28, 1963, at the March on
26 Washington for Jobs and Freedom; and

27 WHEREAS, Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway, in 1964, and the federal Civil Rights Act
28 of 1964 (Section 2000e of Title 42 of the United States Code) was enacted as a direct result of Dr. King's work; and

29 WHEREAS, in 1965, Dr. King led the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, and President Lyndon
30 Johnson signed the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Section 10101 of Title 52 of the United States Code); and

31 WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement helped change public policy from segregation to
32 integration, resulting in the repeal of the post-Reconstruction era state laws mandating racial segregation in the south
33 known as the Jim Crow Laws and leading to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965,
34 and other antidiscrimination laws aimed at ending economic, legal, and social segregation in America; and

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

39 WHEREAS, Dr. King dramatically influenced the perspective and worldview of our entire generation; and

40 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day represents liberation from cruelty and injustice for many African
41 Americans and other minority groups; and

42 WHEREAS, the notion of liberty from cruelty and injustice is a concept that resonates with all marginalized
43 groups, be they deaf, Latino American, Asian American, disabled, gay, or other; and

44 WHEREAS, failure to recognize Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day sends a message of tolerance to bigotry; and

45 WHEREAS, failure to recognize Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day sends a message of indifference to minority
46 groups; and

47 WHEREAS, on April 4, 1968, while in Memphis, Tennessee, assisting striking sanitation workers, Dr. King was
48 assassinated; and

49 WHEREAS, United States Representative John Conyers introduced legislation in Congress 4 days later proposing
50 Dr. King's birthday as a holiday; and

51 WHEREAS, despite resistance to the creation of a new national holiday, the diligence and perseverance of United
52 States Representative John Conyers and numerous others in pursuing this goal culminated on November 2, 1983, when
53 President Ronald Reagan signed legislation making Dr. King's birthday a national holiday; and

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

55 WHEREAS, Dr. King devoted his life to fighting segregation and injustice by nonviolent means and is an
56 outstanding example of courageous leadership in the face of unrelenting violence and harassment by individuals and
57 governmental institutions; and

58 WHEREAS, this year, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is observed on January 21, 2019; and

59 WHEREAS, Dr. King is a source of inspiration for all Americans.

60 NOW, THEREFORE:

61 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 150th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of
62 Representatives concurring therein, that the General Assembly recognizes and honors the leadership and achievements of
63 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and urges all citizens of the First State to participate fittingly in the observance of Dr. Martin
64 Luther King, Jr. Day on January 21, 2019.

SYNOPSIS

This Senate Concurrent Resolution honors and recognizes the leadership and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and urges all citizens of the First State to participate fittingly in the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 21, 2019.

Author: Senator Brown