



SPONSOR: Rep. Bolden & Rep. Chukwuocha & Rep. Cooke &  
Rep. Dorsey Walker & Rep. K. Johnson & Rep. Minor-  
Brown on behalf of all Representatives & Sen. Lockman  
& Sen. Brown on behalf of all Senators

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 65

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, in 1964, Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway, and the federal Civil Rights Act  
29 of 1964, 42 USC § 2000e, was enacted as a direct result of Dr. King’s work; and

30 WHEREAS, in 1965, Dr. King led the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama and President Lyndon  
31 Johnson signed the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, 52 USC § 10101; and

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

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

40 WHEREAS, Dr. King dramatically influenced the perspective and worldview of multiple generations; and

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

43 WHEREAS, the notion of liberty from cruelty and injustice is a concept that resonates with all marginalized  
44 groups; and

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

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

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

52 WHEREAS, while it took until 2000 for all 50 states to recognize “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day” as a state  
53 government holiday, Delaware enacted legislation establishing “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day” as a legal holiday in  
54 1984; and

55 WHEREAS, January 1986, marked the first observance of “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day” as a federal and State  
56 of Delaware legal holiday; and

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

60 WHEREAS, the failure to recognize “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day” sends a message of tolerance to bigotry;  
61 and

62 WHEREAS, the failure to recognize “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day” sends a message of indifference to  
63 minority groups; and

64 WHEREAS, this year, “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day” is observed on January 20, 2020; and

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

66 NOW, THEREFORE:

67 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 150th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the  
68 Senate concurring therein, that the General Assembly recognizes and honors the leadership and achievements of Dr. Martin  
69 Luther King, Jr. and urges all citizens of the First State to participate fittingly in the observance of “Dr. Martin Luther King,  
70 Jr. Day” on January 20, 2020.

#### SYNOPSIS

This House 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 20, 2020.