

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 15, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 109

Introduced by Assembly Member Cooper

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

January 4, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 109—Relative to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 109, as amended, Cooper. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

This measure would proclaim that Monday, January 18, 2016, be observed as the official memorial of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth and his work in the Civil Rights Movement.

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,

1 Jews and gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, in a march to the
2 Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC where Dr. King made his
3 famous “I Have a Dream” speech announcing that the days of
4 segregation in the United States were numbered; and

5 WHEREAS, Monday, January 18, 2016, marks the 30th national
6 celebration of the national holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
7 and his fight for civil and human rights; and

8 WHEREAS, On Friday, January 15, 2016, Dr. Martin Luther
9 King, Jr. would have been 87 years of age; and

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

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

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

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

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

33 WHEREAS, These public policy changes at the national level
34 influenced many changes in California that culminated in the
35 passage of the Unruh Civil Rights Act and the Rumford Fair
36 Housing Act, in open enrollment and access to higher education
37 specifically with respect to the California State University and the
38 University of California, and in employment and labor laws,
39 transportation policy, election laws, and other aspects of public
40 policy; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
26 *thereof concurring*, That Monday, January 18, 2016, be observed
27 as the official memorial of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birth and
28 his work in the Civil Rights Movement; and be it further

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

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

38 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes the inherent value of
39 community service and volunteerism in the creation of a civil
40 society and as a means of nonviolent community progress

1 consistent with the works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and be
2 it further

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

6 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages its members and
7 colleagues to urge their constituents to participate in community
8 service projects; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Legislature acknowledges that, by serving
10 one's country, one's community, and one's neighbor, our nation
11 makes progress in civility, equality, and unity consistent with the
12 values and life's work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and be it
13 further

14 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
15 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.