

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R17-0837.01 Sharon Eubanks x4336

HR17-1004

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Melton and Coleman,

House Committees

HOUSE RESOLUTION 17-1004

101 **CONCERNING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE BIRTHDAY OF THE**
102 **REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

1 WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was born
2 in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15, 1929, graduated from Morehouse
3 College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1948, graduated from Crozer
4 Theological Seminary in 1951, and received a Ph.D. from Boston
5 University in 1955; and

6 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King's faith, resiliency, and commitment to
7 justice became known worldwide through his speeches, writings, and
8 actions; and

9 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King declared that the moral responsibility
10 to aid the oppressed did not stop at the edge of his street, town, or state
11 when he wrote, "I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about
12 what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice
13 everywhere."; and

14 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King withstood attacks on his home and
15 family, among numerous other threats and setbacks, standing firm in his

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 conviction that although the arc of the moral universe is long, it bends
2 towards justice; and

3 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King led the Montgomery bus boycott, a
4 13-month protest beginning in 1955, against the segregated city bus lines;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The Montgomery bus boycott led to the integration
7 of the Montgomery city bus system and is widely credited as the
8 beginning of the civil rights movement in America; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1957, Rev. Dr. King was elected president of the
10 Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization formed to
11 provide leadership for the burgeoning civil rights movement; and

12 WHEREAS, Between 1957 and 1968, Rev. Dr. King spoke more
13 than 2,500 times, wrote 5 books as well as numerous articles, led protests,
14 helped register African American voters, was arrested more than 20
15 times, was awarded 5 honorary degrees, was named Man of the Year by
16 *Time* magazine, and became the symbolic leader of the African American
17 community as well as a world figure; and

18 WHEREAS, On August 28, 1963, Rev. Dr. King directed the
19 March on Washington, wherein more than 200,000 Americans gathered
20 in the name of equality and civil rights and which culminated in Rev. Dr.
21 King's historic "I Have a Dream" speech; and

22 WHEREAS, The leadership of Rev. Dr. King was instrumental in
23 bringing about landmark legislation, such as the "Civil Rights Act of
24 1964", which prohibited segregation in public accommodations and
25 facilities and banned discrimination based on race, color, or national
26 origin, and the "Voting Rights Act of 1965", which eliminated remaining
27 legal barriers to voting for disenfranchised African American voters; and

28 WHEREAS, In 1964, Rev. Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace
29 Prize for his tireless and selfless work in the pursuit of justice for African
30 Americans and other oppressed people in America; and

31 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King's 13 years of nonviolent leadership
32 ended abruptly and tragically when, on April 4, 1968, he was assassinated
33 while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis,
34 Tennessee; and

1 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King's life and work continue to echo in our
2 lives as we strive to reach the lofty goal he set when he said, "Let us all
3 hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the
4 deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched
5 communities, and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of
6 love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their
7 scintillating beauty."; and

8 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King's birthday is a federal holiday in the
9 United States and a state holiday in the state of Colorado, which is
10 celebrated each year on the third Monday in January; and

11 WHEREAS, On Monday, January 16, 2017, we celebrate the 31st
12 anniversary of Rev. Dr. King's holiday; now, therefore,

13 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first*
14 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

15 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, hereby
16 encourage appropriate observances, ceremonies, and activities to
17 commemorate the federal and state legal holiday honoring the Rev. Dr.
18 Martin Luther King, Jr., throughout all cities, towns, counties, school
19 districts, and local governments within Colorado.

20 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
21 to President Barack Obama, Honorable Governor John Hickenlooper, the
22 Congressional Black Caucus, the National Black Caucus of State
23 Legislators, and the members of Colorado's congressional delegation:
24 Senators Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner and Representatives Diana
25 DeGette, Jared Polis, Scott Tipton, Ken Buck, Doug Lamborn, Mike
26 Coffman, and Ed Perlmutter.