

First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

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HR21-1004

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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House Committees

HOUSE RESOLUTION 21-1004

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

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

1 when he wrote, "I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about
2 what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice
3 everywhere."; and

4 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King withstood attacks on his home and
5 family, among numerous other threats and setbacks, standing firm in his
6 conviction that although the arc of the moral universe is long, it bends
7 towards justice; and

8 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King led the Montgomery bus boycott, a
9 13-month protest beginning in 1955, against the segregated city bus lines;
10 and

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

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, The leadership of Rev. Dr. King was instrumental in
28 bringing about landmark legislation, such as the "Civil Rights Act of
29 1964", which prohibited segregation in public accommodations and
30 facilities and banned discrimination based on race, color, or national
31 origin, and the "Voting Rights Act of 1965", which eliminated remaining
32 legal barriers to voting for disenfranchised African American voters; and

33 WHEREAS, In 1964, Rev. Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace
34 Prize for his tireless and selfless work in the pursuit of justice for African

1 Americans and other oppressed people in America; and

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

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

13 WHEREAS, The celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in
14 Colorado was championed by Representative Wilma Webb, who
15 sponsored the legislation creating the holiday, and on April 4, 1985,
16 Colorado Governor Dick Lamm signed the bill into law; and

17 WHEREAS, Colorado's enactment of the holiday and the annual
18 Marade -- a merging of the words "march" and "parade" -- predated the
19 federal holiday designation, and the first celebration in Colorado was on
20 January 20, 1986; and

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

24 WHEREAS, On Monday, January 18, 2021, we celebrate the 35th
25 anniversary of Rev. Dr. King's holiday; now, therefore,

26 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-third
27 General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

28 That we, the members of the House of Representatives, hereby
29 encourage appropriate observances, ceremonies, and activities to
30 commemorate the federal and state legal holiday honoring the Rev. Dr.
31 Martin Luther King, Jr., throughout all cities, towns, counties, school
32 districts, and local governments within Colorado.

1 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Resolution be sent to
2 President Donald Trump, Honorable Governor Jared Polis, the
3 Congressional Black Caucus, the National Black Caucus of State
4 Legislators, and the members of Colorado's congressional delegation:
5 Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper and Representatives
6 Diana DeGette, Joe Neguse, Lauren Boebert, Ken Buck, Doug Lamborn,
7 Jason Crow, and Ed Perlmutter.