

Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R14-0865.01 Meghan O'Connor x4143

HJR14-1003

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Exum, Williams, Buckner, Fields, Melton

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Steadman,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-1003

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, in 1929, graduated from Morehouse College with a
3 Bachelor of Arts degree in 1948, graduated from Crozer Theological
4 Seminary in 1951, and received a Ph.D. from Boston University in 1955;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King led the Montgomery bus boycott, a
7 13-month protest beginning December 5, 1955, against the segregated
8 city bus lines; and

9 WHEREAS, The Montgomery bus boycott lead to the integration

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 of the Montgomery city bus system and is widely credited as the
2 beginning of the civil rights movement in America; and

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

6 WHEREAS, Between 1957 and 1968, Rev. Dr. King spoke over
7 2,500 times, wrote 5 books as well as numerous articles, led protests,
8 helped register African American voters, was arrested over 20 times, was
9 awarded 5 honorary degrees, was named Man of the Year by *Time*
10 magazine, and became the symbolic leader of the African American
11 community as well as a world figure; and

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

16 WHEREAS, The leadership of Rev. Dr. King was instrumental in
17 bringing about landmark legislation, such as the "Civil Rights Act of
18 1964", which prohibited segregation in public accommodations and
19 facilities and banned discrimination based on race, color, or national
20 origin, and the "Voting Rights Act of 1965", which eliminated remaining
21 legal barriers to voting for disenfranchised African American voters; and

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

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

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

32 WHEREAS, On Monday, January 20, 2014, we celebrate the 28th
33 anniversary of Rev. Dr. King's holiday; now, therefore,

1 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth*
2 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

3 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, hereby
4 encourage appropriate observances, ceremonies, and activities to
5 commemorate the federal and state legal holiday honoring the Reverend
6 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., throughout all cities, towns, counties, school
7 districts, and local governments within Colorado.

8 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
9 to President Barack Obama, the Congressional Black Caucus, the
10 National Black Caucus of State Legislators, and Colorado's congressional
11 delegation.