

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 4

Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY STREET, EICHELBERGER, DINNIMAN, SCAVELLO,
BREWSTER, SABATINA, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, HAYWOOD, WILLIAMS,
TARTAGLIONE, LEACH, COSTA, FARNESE, SCHWANK, BLAKE, BOSCOLA,
YUDICHAK, HUGHES, BARTOLOTTA, VULAKOVICH AND VOGEL,
JANUARY 3, 2017

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 3, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of January 16 through 22, 2017, as "Dr.
2 Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr., born January 15, 1929, in
4 Atlanta, Georgia, followed in his father's and grandfather's
5 footsteps by becoming a Baptist minister after graduation from
6 Morehouse College in 1948 and Crozer Theological Seminary in
7 1951; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. King received his doctorate from Boston
9 University in 1955; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1954, as pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist
11 Church in Montgomery, Alabama, Dr. King organized a boycott of
12 the city's segregated busing system, which led to a United
13 States Supreme Court decision forcing desegregation of the
14 buses; and

15 WHEREAS, Throughout this and later civil rights protests, Dr.
16 King espoused the philosophy of nonviolent passive resistance

1 and civil disobedience; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1957, Dr. King moved back to Atlanta to join his
3 father as associate pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church and
4 organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to fight
5 segregation and discrimination throughout the South; and

6 WHEREAS, During the following years, Dr. King was frequently
7 arrested, beaten, jailed and threatened with violence as a
8 result of his protest activities; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. King led a massive voter registration drive in
10 Selma, Alabama, resulting in the famous freedom march to
11 Montgomery, the state capital; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. King's famous march on Washington, DC, in 1963
13 culminated in a great rally at the Lincoln Memorial where he
14 gave his immortal "I have a dream" speech; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. King's efforts resulted in enactment of the
16 Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. King's personal sacrifices and determined
18 leadership of the civil rights movement in the United States
19 were formally recognized in 1964 when he received the Nobel
20 Peace Prize; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. King was assassinated in 1968 while in Memphis,
22 Tennessee, to organize a Poor People's Campaign; and

23 WHEREAS, The third Monday of January has been designated as a
24 national holiday in order to give all Americans an opportunity
25 to reflect upon the profound impact Dr. King has had on life in
26 the United States; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of January 16
28 through 22, 2017, as "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Week"
29 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge all Pennsylvanians to be

1 mindful of the spirit and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
2 and to remember his commitment to peace and his dedication to
3 equality for all human beings on the designated week of his
4 remembrance and throughout the year.