
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1251

Session of
2003

INTRODUCED BY BISHOP, JOSEPHS, RIEGER, HERSHEY, DeWEESE, WALKO,
MARKOSEK, LAUGHLIN, CORNELL, JAMES, ROBERTS, HORSEY,
WHEATLEY, CIVERA, DALEY, TANGRETTI, GOODMAN, KIRKLAND,
McGEEHAN, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, WATERS, DONATUCCI, KELLER AND
OLIVER, APRIL 29, 2003

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 29, 2003

AN ACT

1 Naming the staircase in the Rotunda of the Main Capitol
2 Building.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Declaration of policy.

6 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

7 (1) Martin Luther King, Jr., was an outstanding leader
8 of our country.

9 (2) Martin Luther King, Jr., led a rising tide of civil
10 rights protests which mobilized national opinion in favor of
11 civil rights and against racial segregation. His most notable
12 contributions were:

13 (i) leading the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama,
14 in 1955, in protest against the arrest of Rosa Parks for
15 refusing to obey the city's segregation law;

16 (ii) organizing the Southern Christian Leadership

1 Conference as a base of operation throughout the South
2 and a national platform for the advocacy of civil rights;
3 and

4 (iii) writing the famous Letter from the Birmingham
5 Jail, advocating nonviolent direct action to dramatize
6 the issue of civil rights.

7 (3) The accomplishments referred to in paragraph (2)
8 resulted in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
9 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

10 (4) In December 1964, Martin Luther King, Jr., was
11 awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace.

12 (5) Martin Luther King, Jr., will always be regarded as
13 a role model for citizens of this Commonwealth, especially
14 African Americans.

15 (6) It is appropriate that the staircase in the Main
16 Capitol Building be named in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.
17 Section 2. Designation and recognition.

18 (a) Designation.--The staircase in the Rotunda of the Main
19 Capitol Building is designated as, and shall be referred to as,
20 the Martin Luther King, Jr., Staircase.

21 (b) Recognition.--The Department of General Services shall
22 post an appropriate sign to recognize the designation.

23 Section 3. Effective date.

24 This act shall take effect immediately.