

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 676 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY GAINNEY, DONATUCCI, ZABEL, McNEILL, HILL-EVANS, KIM, GREINER, SOLOMON, SHUSTERMAN, MERSKI, ULLMAN, RABB, SONNEY, PASHINSKI, MARKOSEK, HARKINS, KORTZ, RAVENSTAHL, INNAMORATO, MILLARD, MURT, D. MILLER, ISAACSON, HOHENSTEIN, KINSEY, KENYATTA, THOMAS, POLINCHOCK, LONGIETTI, FREEMAN, WHEATLEY, SAINATO, MEHAFFIE, BURNS, A. DAVIS, JONES, KIRKLAND, YOUNGBLOOD, BIZZARRO, DeLUCA, SANCHEZ, PICKETT, HOWARD, SCHLOSSBERG AND READSHAW, JANUARY 17, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 17, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and
 2 recognizing the week of January 20 through 26, 2020, as
 3 "Martin Luther King, Jr., Week of Remembrance" in
 4 Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr., born on January 15, 1929,
 6 in Atlanta, Georgia, followed in his father's and grandfather's
 7 footsteps by becoming a Baptist minister after graduation from
 8 Morehouse College in 1948 and Crozer Theological Seminary in
 9 1951; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. King received his doctorate from Boston
 11 University in 1955; and

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

1 WHEREAS, Throughout this and later civil rights protests, Dr.
2 King espoused the philosophy of nonviolent passive resistance
3 and civil disobedience; and

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, His famous march on Washington, DC, in 1963
15 culminated in a great rally at the Lincoln Memorial at which he
16 gave his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech; and

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

19 WHEREAS, His personal sacrifices and determined leadership of
20 the civil rights movement in the United States were formally
21 recognized in 1964 when he received the Nobel Peace Prize; and

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

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

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life
29 and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and recognize the
30 week of January 20 through 26, 2020, as "Martin Luther King,

1 Jr., Week of Remembrance" in Pennsylvania; and be it further
2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
3 Pennsylvanians to be mindful of the spirit and work of Dr.
4 Martin Luther King, Jr., and to remember his commitment to
5 peaceful protest and his dedication to equality and equal
6 protection for all mankind on the designated week of his
7 remembrance, January 20 through 26, 2020, and throughout the
8 year.