

By: Representatives Coleman (65th), Scott
(80th), Blackmon, Clarke, Coleman (29th),
Fredericks, Gibbs, Morris, Myers, Smith
(27th), Walker, Wallace

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 64

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CREATING THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,
2 COMMISSION, PROVIDING FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION AND
3 PROVIDING FOR THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

4 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr., devoted his life to the
5 recognition of the civil rights of all persons; and

6 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King Day was created to honor Dr. King
7 for his contributions to all of the human race; and

8 WHEREAS, the creation of a commission in the State of
9 Mississippi will embrace and continue the message that Dr. King
10 taught regarding civil rights:

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
13 THEREIN, That there is created the Martin Luther King, Jr.,
14 Commission, hereinafter referred to as "the commission." The
15 purposes of the commission are to encourage appropriate ceremonies
16 and activities throughout the State of Mississippi relating to the
17 observance of the state legal holiday honoring Martin Luther King,
18 Jr., which occurs on the third Monday in January each year, and to
19 provide advice and assistance to local governments and private
20 organizations with respect to the observance of the holiday.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the commission shall be composed
22 of 30 persons to be appointed as follows:

23 (a) On or before July 1, 1999, the Governor shall appoint
24 ten members, two from each congressional district. Two appointees
25 of the Governor shall be from the general public; two shall be
26 teachers in a public elementary school; two shall be officers in

27 the Student Government Association at a state-supported university
28 or college; two shall be members of the clergy or representatives
29 of a religious community; and two shall represent business or
30 industry. The Governor shall designate two appointees to serve an
31 initial term that expires on June 30, 2000, four appointees to
32 serve initial terms that expire on June 30, 2001, and four
33 appointees to serve initial terms that expire on June 30, 2002.
34 The Governor shall designate one of his appointees to serve as
35 chairperson of the commission until the commission has organized
36 and selected its officers pursuant to this resolution.

37 (b) On or before July 1, 1999, the Lieutenant Governor shall
38 appoint ten members, five of whom shall be members of the Senate;
39 two of whom shall be professors at major universities in the
40 state; and three of whom shall be active in professional social
41 organizations. The five members of the Senate shall each be from
42 a congressional district and shall serve ex officio. The
43 Lieutenant Governor shall designate two appointees to serve
44 initial terms that expire on June 30, 2000, four appointees to
45 serve initial terms that expire on June 30, 2001, and four
46 appointees to serve initial terms that expire on June 30, 2002.

47 (c) On or before July 1, 1999, the Speaker of the House of
48 Representatives shall appoint ten members, five of whom shall be
49 members of the House of Representatives; two of whom shall be
50 professors at major universities in the state; and three of whom
51 shall be active in professional social organizations. The five
52 members of the House of Representatives shall each be from a
53 congressional district and shall serve ex officio. The Speaker
54 shall designate two appointees to serve initial terms that expire
55 on June 30, 2000, four appointees to serve initial terms that
56 expire on June 30, 2001, and four appointees to serve initial
57 terms that expire on June 30, 2002.

58 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that the commission
59 reflect the racial and gender demographics of the entire state.

60 Upon the expiration of the initial terms, all members shall
61 be appointed for terms of three years from the expiration date of
62 the previous term. Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration
63 of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term by the

64 appropriate appointing authority. An appointment to fill an
65 unexpired term shall not be considered as a full term.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the commission shall adopt rules
67 for its efficient operation, which may include designation of its
68 organizational structure including officers and committees, duties
69 of officers and committees, a process for selecting officers,
70 quorum requirements for committees, provisions for special or ad
71 hoc committees, and other such procedures as may be necessary.
72 The commission may establish committees responsible for conducting
73 specific commission programs or activities.

74 All members of the commission shall serve without
75 reimbursement of travel expenses, compensation or per diem.

76 The commission shall meet and conduct business at least
77 semiannually, but not more often than once a month. All meetings
78 of the commission and any committees of the commission shall be
79 open to the public, with opportunities for public comment provided
80 on a regular basis. Notice of all meetings shall be given as
81 provided in the Open Meetings Act (Section 25-41-1 et seq.), and
82 appropriate notice also shall be given to all persons so
83 requesting of the date, time and place of each meeting.

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That not later than July 1 of each
85 year, the commission shall submit a report to the Governor and the
86 Legislature concerning its activities under this act.