

By: Representative Coleman (65th)

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 945

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., COMMISSION; TO  
 2 PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE THAT  
 3 THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION SHALL REFLECT THE RACIAL AND  
 4 GENDER DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE STATE; TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION TO  
 5 ADOPT RULES FOR ITS ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS; TO  
 6 PROVIDE THAT MEMBERS SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION; TO REQUIRE  
 7 THE COMMISSION TO MEET AT LEAST SEMIANNUALLY; TO REQUIRE THE  
 8 COMMISSION TO ANNUALLY REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE;  
 9 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

11 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Martin Luther King,  
 12 Jr., Commission, hereinafter referred to as "the commission." The  
 13 purposes of the commission are to encourage appropriate ceremonies  
 14 and activities throughout the State of Mississippi relating to the  
 15 observance of the state legal holiday honoring Martin Luther King,  
 16 Jr., which occurs on the third Monday in January each year, and to  
 17 provide advice and assistance to local governments and private  
 18 organizations with respect to the observance of the holiday.

19 (2) The commission shall be composed of thirty (30) persons  
 20 to be appointed as follows:

21 (a) On or before July 1, 2002, the Governor shall  
 22 appoint ten (10) members, two (2) from each congressional  
 23 district. Two (2) appointees of the Governor shall be from the  
 24 general public; two (2) shall be teachers in a public elementary  
 25 school; two (2) shall be officers in the Student Government  
 26 Association at a state-supported university or college; two (2)  
 27 shall be members of the clergy or representatives of a religious  
 28 community; and two (2) shall represent business or industry. The  
 29 Governor shall designate two (2) appointees to serve an initial  
 30 term that expires on June 30, 2003, four (4) appointees to serve



31 initial terms that expire on June 30, 2004, and four (4)  
32 appointees to serve initial terms that expire on June 30, 2005.  
33 The Governor shall designate one (1) of his appointees to serve as  
34 chairperson of the commission until the commission has organized  
35 and selected its officers pursuant to Section 2 of this act.

36 (b) On or before July 1, 2002, the Lieutenant Governor  
37 shall appoint ten (10) members, five (5) of whom shall be members  
38 of the Senate; two (2) of whom shall be professors at major  
39 universities in the state; and three (3) of whom shall be active  
40 in professional social organizations. The five (5) members of the  
41 Senate shall each be from a congressional district and shall serve  
42 ex officio. The Lieutenant Governor shall designate two (2)  
43 appointees to serve initial terms that expire on June 30, 2003,  
44 four (4) appointees to serve initial terms that expire on June 30,  
45 2004, and four (4) appointees to serve initial terms that expire  
46 on June 30, 2005.

47 (c) On or before July 1, 2002, the Speaker of the House  
48 of Representatives shall appoint ten (10) members, five (5) of  
49 whom shall be members of the House of Representatives; two (2) of  
50 whom shall be professors at major universities in the state; and  
51 three (3) of whom shall be active in professional social  
52 organizations. The five (5) members of the House of  
53 Representatives shall each be from a congressional district and  
54 shall serve ex officio. The Speaker shall designate two (2)  
55 appointees to serve initial terms that expire on June 30, 2003,  
56 four (4) appointees to serve initial terms that expire on June 30,  
57 2004, and four (4) appointees to serve initial terms that expire  
58 on June 30, 2005.

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

62 (3) Upon the expiration of the initial terms, all members  
63 shall be appointed for terms of three (3) years from the



64 expiration date of the previous term. Any vacancy occurring other  
65 than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired  
66 term by the appropriate appointing authority. An appointment to  
67 fill an unexpired term shall not be considered as a full term.

68 **SECTION 2.** (1) The commission shall adopt rules for its  
69 efficient operation, which may include designation of its  
70 organizational structure including officers and committees, duties  
71 of officers and committees, a process for selecting officers,  
72 quorum requirements for committees, provisions for special or ad  
73 hoc committees, and other such procedures as may be necessary.  
74 The commission may establish committees responsible for conducting  
75 specific commission programs or activities.

76 (2) Members of the commission shall serve without  
77 compensation or per diem.

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

86 (4) All departments, boards, agencies, officers and  
87 institutions of the state and all subdivisions thereof shall  
88 cooperate with the commission in carrying out the provisions of  
89 this act.

90 **SECTION 3.** Not later than July 1 of each year, the  
91 commission shall submit a report to the Governor and the  
92 Legislature concerning its activities under this act.

93 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
94 and after its passage.

