

HOUSE BILL 1167

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1999 Regular Session
9lr2413

By: **Delegates Howard, Burns, Marriott, Griffith, V. Jones, Doory, Cane, Conway, Grosfeld, Kopp, McIntosh, Goldwater, Frush, Brown, Menes, Hubbard, R. Baker, D. Davis, Dypski, Paige, Giannetti, Phillips, Oaks, Patterson, Healey, Dobson, Proctor, Montague, Branch, Swain, Benson, Kirk, Hixson, Harrison, A. Jones, Hill, Valderrama, Vallario, Moe, and Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: March 1, 1999
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public School Holidays - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a public school
4 holiday; repealing a provision of law requiring a public school to devote part of
5 the day to appropriate activities on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; and generally
6 relating to public school holidays in the State.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - Education
9 Section 7-103(c)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

12 **Preamble**

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is honored by a federal holiday for his
14 civil rights accomplishments; and

15 WHEREAS, His legacy of love and nonviolence has become a tool of social and
16 human rights change; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. King is an African American icon and a national and
18 international hero; and

19 WHEREAS, He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his nonviolent approach
20 to the violent actions of white Americans in both the North and South; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. King's legacy of love and nonviolence is the solution to many of
22 the problems that our nation faces in all areas of social interchange, including
23 education; and

1 WHEREAS, Our nation has seen the wisdom of his anti-Vietnam War efforts;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. King gave his life in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968 in
4 pursuit of justice for refuse workers; and

5 WHEREAS, The entire world lamented Dr. King's untimely death; now,
6 therefore,

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
8 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

9 **Article - Education**

10 7-103.

11 (c) (1) The following days are public school holidays:

12 (i) Thanksgiving Day and the day after;

13 (ii) Christmas Eve and from then through January 1;

14 (iii) MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY;

15 (IV) The Friday before Easter and from then through the Monday
16 after Easter;

17 [(iv)] (V) Memorial Day; and

18 [(v)] (VI) Primary and general election days.

19 (2) If the federal and State observances of a holiday are on different
20 days, the board of education of each county shall determine which date shall be the
21 date of observance for the public schools within the county.

22 (3) The public schools shall devote a part of the day to appropriate
23 exercises for the following days:

24 (i) Washington's Birthday;

25 (ii) Lincoln's Birthday;

26 (iii) Veterans' Day;

27 (iv) Columbus Day;

28 (v) [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;

29 (vi)] Arbor Day; and

30 [(vii)] (VI) Any other day of national significance.

1 (4) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, the public
2 schools, in the following counties, may remain open and in session on primary and
3 general election days:

- 4 (i) Calvert;
- 5 (ii) Caroline;
- 6 (iii) Dorchester;
- 7 (iv) Kent;
- 8 (v) Talbot; and
- 9 (vi) Worcester.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 July 1, 1999.