

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, Rosenberg, Getty, Kagan, Bobo, Bronrott, Cryor, Franchot, Glassman, Heller, Pitkin, Rosso, Shriver, and Turner**

Introduced and read first time: March 1, 1999
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations
Re-referred to: Ways and Means, March 4, 1999

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 22, 1999

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 **Article - Education**

17 7-103.

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

19 (i) Thanksgiving Day and the day after;

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

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

22 ~~(IV)~~ PRESIDENTS' DAY;

23 ~~(V)~~ (V) The Friday before Easter and from then through the
24 Monday after Easter;

25 [(iv)] ~~(V)~~ (VI) Memorial Day; and

26 [(v)] ~~(VI)~~ (VII) Primary and general election days.

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

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

32 (i) Washington's Birthday;

- 1 (ii) Lincoln's Birthday;
- 2 (iii) Veterans' Day;
- 3 (iv) Columbus Day;
- 4 (v) [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;
- 5 (vi)] Arbor Day; and
- 6 [(vii)] (VI) Any other day of national significance.

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

- 10 (i) Calvert;
- 11 (ii) Caroline;
- 12 (iii) Dorchester;
- 13 (iv) Kent;
- 14 (v) Talbot; and
- 15 (vi) Worcester.

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