
By: **Delegates Taylor, Barve, and Brown**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 27, 2006

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Funding for the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial Project**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to include in the State budget bill for a
4 certain fiscal year a certain appropriation to assist in the construction of the
5 national memorial honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Washington, D.C.

6 Preamble

7 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr., was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta,
8 Georgia, and was assassinated on April 4, 1968; and

9 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr., attended Morehouse College in Atlanta,
10 Georgia, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology in 1948, received a
11 Bachelor in Divinity degree from Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, and
12 in 1955 received his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Boston University in
13 Massachusetts; and

14 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr., married Coretta Scott on June 18, 1953,
15 and had four children: Yolanda Denise (born 1955), Martin Luther III (born 1957),
16 Dexter Scott (born 1961), and Bernice Albertine (born 1963); and

17 WHEREAS, In 1954, Martin Luther King, Jr., accepted the pastorate at Dexter
18 Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1957 co-founded the Southern
19 Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and in 1960 became co-pastor of Ebenezer
20 Baptist Church with his father; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1959, Dr. King toured India to further develop his understanding
22 of Gandhian nonviolent strategies, and during the 1950's and 1960's Dr. King
23 dedicated his life to advocate for nonviolent methods and direct action to achieve
24 social change, and gained worldwide recognition and prominence for his role in
25 launching a bus boycott against the segregated bus policies of Montgomery, Alabama;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, Dr. King led mass demonstrations in opposition to segregation in
28 the South and pursued civil rights activities nationwide, and was instrumental in

1 organizing the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963, which brought
2 together more than 250,000 protestors and where Dr. King delivered his famous "I
3 Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial; and

4 WHEREAS, The efforts of Dr. King in the area of civil rights led to the passage
5 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by the U.S. Congress, and in that same year Dr. King
6 was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in the civil rights movement,
7 and these efforts and contributions to the civil rights movement are still visible today;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The idea for a national memorial honoring Dr. King originated from
10 the Alpha Brothers in the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. chapter in Montgomery
11 County and in 1985, Senator Paul Sarbanes and Representative Connie Morella of
12 Maryland, first introduced legislation to authorize the construction of a memorial to
13 honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and it is significant and historic that legislators
14 from the State of Maryland led the way for the establishment of the memorial, and
15 since its inception Marylanders have been at the forefront of the memorial project;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, In 1996, with the support and dedication of Senator Paul Sarbanes,
18 Representative Morella and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the U.S. Congress
19 approved legislation to build the memorial honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on
20 the National Mall in Washington, D.C. and former President William J. Clinton
21 signed the legislation into law; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1998, Senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland introduced legislation
23 that would enable the memorial to be built in "Area I" of the capital, the most
24 recognizable and highly visited part of the capital, consisting of the Mall and areas
25 surrounding the tidal basin, and Senator Sarbanes stated that the King Memorial
26 "would acknowledge the Nation's historic debt to Dr. King, to his philosophy of
27 nonviolence, and to his dream of Americans living and working together in racial
28 harmony"; and

29 WHEREAS, That same year the U.S. Congress passed the legislation
30 authorizing the placement of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial in Area I, and
31 former President William J. Clinton signed the legislation into law, and since that
32 time architects have been selected to design and construct the memorial and
33 fund-raising activities have been ongoing; and

34 WHEREAS, In 2005, the U.S. Congress approved \$10 million to help begin
35 groundbreaking for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial; now, therefore

36 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
37 MARYLAND, That the Governor shall include an appropriation in the State budget
38 bill for Fiscal Year 2008 of \$1 million to assist in the construction of the national
39 memorial honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Washington, D.C.

40 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
41 July 1, 2006.