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By: **Delegates Taylor, Anderson, Barkley, Benson, Branch, Bronrott, Brown, Burns, Cane, Carter, Conroy, Cryor, Feldman, Frush, Gaines, Griffith, Gutierrez, Harrison, Haynes, Healey, Hixson, Holmes, Howard, Kaiser, King, Kirk, Lee, Madaleno, Mandel, Marriott, Montgomery, Murray, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Parker, Patterson, Proctor, Ramirez, Ross, Simmons, Stern, F. Turner, and Vaughn**

Introduced and read first time: March 2, 2006  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2                                   **Support by the State of Maryland for the Martin Luther King, Jr., National**  
3                                   **Memorial Project**

4 FOR the purpose of expressing support for the construction of the national memorial  
5 honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Washington, D.C.; and urging the State  
6 of Maryland, the private sector, and other states to provide financial support to  
7 the national memorial.

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

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

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, Dr. King led mass demonstrations in opposition to segregation in  
2 the South and pursued civil rights activities nationwide, and was instrumental in  
3 organizing the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963, which brought  
4 together more than 250,000 protestors and where Dr. King delivered his famous "I  
5 Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial; and

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

11 WHEREAS, In 1985, Senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland first introduced  
12 legislation to authorize the construction of a memorial to honor Dr. Martin Luther  
13 King, Jr.; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1996, the U.S. Congress approved legislation to build the  
15 memorial honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the National Mall in Washington  
16 D.C. and former President William J. Clinton signed the legislation into law; and

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

24 WHEREAS, That same year the U.S. Congress passed the legislation  
25 authorizing the placement of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial in Area I, and  
26 former President William J. Clinton signed the legislation into law, and since that  
27 time architects have been selected to design and construct the memorial and  
28 fund-raising activities have been ongoing, and in 2005, the U.S. Congress passed  
29 legislation to help fund the construction of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial;  
30 now, therefore, be it

31 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
32 General Assembly of Maryland expresses its profound gratitude for Dr. King's  
33 incalculable contributions to American society and further express its full support for  
34 the construction of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial; and be it further

35 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urges the Governor to provide  
36 financial support to the construction of the memorial; and be it further

37 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly also urges the private sector and other  
38 states to provide financial support to the construction of the memorial; and be it  
39 further

40 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
41 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S.

1 Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;  
2 and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, Benjamin L.  
3 Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E.  
4 Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington,  
5 D.C. 20515; and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
7 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;  
8 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and  
9 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.