

House Bill 718

By: Representatives Bruce of the 45th, Mitchell of the 61st, Post 3, Brooks of the 47th, Smyre of the 111th, Richardson of the 26th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 12 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 commissions and other agencies, so as to create the Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday
3 Commission; to provide for the appointment and terms of members; to provide for officers;
4 to provide for the duties of the commission; to authorize the employment of staff by the
5 commission; to provide for reimbursement of expenses; to provide for related matters; to
6 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 12 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to commissions
10 and other agencies, is amended by inserting at the end thereof a new Article 9 to read as
11 follows:

12 "ARTICLE 9

13 50-12-150.

14 (a) There is hereby created a commission to be known as the Martin Luther King, Jr. State
15 Holiday Commission.

16 (b) The Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission shall consist of 25 members
17 to be appointed as follows:

18 (1) A representative of the Governor's office, to be appointed by the Governor and to
19 serve at the pleasure of the Governor;

20 (2) Four members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, and no
21 more than two of whom shall be from the same political party;

22 (3) Four members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the
23 House of Representatives, and no more than two of whom shall be from the same
24 political party;

1 (4) Twelve members of the general public, to be appointed by the Governor, and who
2 shall be residents of the state and shall represent the various geographical areas of the
3 state, various civic, social, religious, educational, business, and artistic organizations, and
4 shall be committed to resolving conflict and to upholding the humanitarian philosophy
5 of Dr. King; and

6 (5) Four members of the general public, to be appointed by the Governor, and who shall
7 be residents of the state between the ages of 16 and 19 years and no more than one of
8 whom shall reside in the same congressional district.

9 (c) Legislative members of the commission shall serve during the legislative term in which
10 the appointment is made. At the first meeting of the commission, the members of the
11 general public shall draw lots for terms so that four members will serve for a term of one
12 year; four members will serve for a term of two years; and four members will serve for a
13 term of three years. All successors to these members shall serve for a term of three years.
14 Vacancies in the membership shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the
15 manner as the original appointments were made.

16 (d) The Governor shall designate two cochairs of the commission from the general public
17 membership.

18 (e) A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

19 (f) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but, to the extent
20 moneys are appropriated therefor, shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for mileage
21 and other expenses actually incurred in performance of their duties in accordance with the
22 rates and standards for reimbursement to state employees.

23 50-12-151.

24 The Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission shall have the following duties:

25 (1) To promote racial harmony, understanding, respect, and good will among all citizens;

26 (2) To promote principles of nonviolence;

27 (3) To promote among the people of Georgia by appropriate activities both awareness
28 and appreciation of the civil rights movement and advocacy of the principles and legacy
29 of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

30 (4) To develop, coordinate, and advise the Governor and the General Assembly of
31 appropriate ceremonies and activities throughout the state relating to the observance of
32 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and his legacy; and

33 (5) To receive donations and contributions from individuals and public and private
34 organizations in order to carry out its responsibilities.

1 50-12-152.
2 The Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission may employ such staff and
3 consultants as authorized by law and fix their compensation, duties, authority, and
4 responsibilities."

5 **SECTION 2.**

6 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.