

House Bill 1276

By: Representatives Abdul-Salaam of the 74th, Brooks of the 63rd, Watson of the 91st, Smyre of the 132nd, Orrock of the 58th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state
2 holidays and observations, so as to establish Coretta Scott King Day in Georgia; to state
3 legislative findings; to provide for a portrait; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
4 purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state holidays and
8 observations, is amended by adding at its end a new Code section to read as follows:

9 "1-4-16.

10 (a) The General Assembly and the people of the State of Georgia wish to honor the public
11 service and accomplishments of our most accomplished adopted daughter, Coretta Scott
12 King, for her dignified but unyielding stand for equal rights and dignity and for her
13 incalculable contributions to the citizens of this state, our country, and the world.

14 (1) Coretta Scott was born on April 27, 1927, in Heiberger, Perry County, Alabama, near
15 Marion. She was the second of three children born to Obediah Scott, an enterprising
16 entrepreneur, and Bernice McMurray Scott; and in 1945, she enrolled at Antioch College
17 in Yellow Springs, Ohio, pursuing majors in music and education.

18 (2) On June 18, 1953, Coretta Scott married Martin Luther King, Jr., with Reverend
19 King, Sr., officiating at the wedding ceremony. Over the next ten years, the couple
20 welcomed four children into their family: Yolanda Denise, November 17, 1955, Martin
21 Luther III, October 23, 1957, Dexter Scott, January 30, 1961, and Bernice Albertine,
22 March 28, 1963.

23 (3) In 1956, when her first child was not even a year old, Mrs. King stood by her
24 husband's side as the Montgomery bus boycott began, and never did her support and
25 conviction waver, not when her house was bombed and not when her husband was jailed,
26 assaulted, and murdered for his commitment to human rights. She shared her husband's

1 steadfast commitment to seek peace and justice through nonviolent action and played a
2 leading role in advocating social change across the nation and throughout the world
3 during his lifetime and thereafter; and she continued to be a prominent voice in
4 maintaining the enduring legacy of her husband's dreams to the moment of her death.

5 (4) While Dr. King is an undisputed hero of the movement, excelling in the sincerity of
6 his conviction, and his unwillingness to compromise in matters of nonviolence, Mrs.
7 King is a hero in her own right. Sadly, even though she has received many honors, most
8 'mainstream' Americans do not know of her accomplishments, her convictions, and her
9 tireless work on behalf of a free and equal society.

10 (b) April 27 of each year is designated 'Coretta Scott King Day' in Georgia. The Georgia
11 Art Policy Committee is authorized and directed to acquire or commission an appropriate
12 portrait of Ms. King to hang in the capitol next to the portrait of her husband, The Reverend
13 Martin Luther King, Jr."

14 **SECTION 2.**

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