

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR. DAY**

**WHEREAS**, January 19, 2026 marks the national and state holiday in honor of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., commemorating his birth on January 15, 1929; and

**WHEREAS**, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist minister who advocated the furtherance of civil and human rights for all Americans through nonviolence; and

**WHEREAS**, this man of great moral conviction and spirit showed this country a dream of "an oasis of freedom and justice"; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King, a model of an American patriot, provided the nation with one of the most prophetic and influential voices in our history; and

**WHEREAS**, for his tireless work to ensure equality and justice through nonviolence, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, a high and honorable distinction, in 1964; and

**WHEREAS**, his eloquence, his perseverance and his faith moved mountains and brought about systemic legal and social changes; and

**WHEREAS**, the life of Dr. King, which ended so tragically on April 4, 1968, is a shining example to Americans and citizens of the world of uncompromising dedication to the highest ideals of freedom, justice and equality; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King was the first African American to be honored with a memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. with the dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in West Potomac Park in 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, in Maine, the Honorable Gerald E. Talbot of Portland submitted legislation in 1975 to create a day commemorating Dr. King prior to the federal legislation creating the holiday; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary life and works of this teacher, reformer and humanitarian, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and pause in our deliberations to recognize and commemorate the occasion of his birth.