

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE DRH50170-LG-57 (03/04)**

Short Title: MLK Resource Center Funds. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Ross, B. Allen, and Munford (Primary Sponsors).

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Referred to:

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA MARTIN  
2 LUTHER KING RESOURCE CENTER.  
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4 Whereas, Martin Luther King, Jr. was driven by his vision of racial equality  
5 for all people and devoted his life and ministry to the pursuit of this dream; and

6 Whereas, a growing number of legislative leaders in North Carolina of both  
7 political parties and all races and cultures now recognize, acknowledge, and confirm  
8 that despite improvements made during and since the civil rights movement the  
9 following concerns continue to persist:

- 10 (1) African-Americans and Hispanics are tremendously overrepresented in  
11 North Carolina's prison system.  
12 (2) African-Americans continue to lag far behind North Carolina's  
13 mainstream population in statistical measures for quality of life.  
14 (3) African-Americans face income disparities, high infant mortality,  
15 continuing gaps in education, higher than average unemployment,  
16 substandard housing patterns, high levels of substance abuse, barriers  
17 in health care, and below-average life-spans; and

18 Whereas, the objectives of the Martin Luther King Resource Center are to:

- 19 (1) Collect data that supports strategies focused on the enhancement of  
20 racial and cultural cooperation, communication, and understanding.  
21 (2) Document disparity levels between ethnic and cultural groups relating  
22 to housing, educational attainment, and the availability of medical  
23 resources.  
24 (3) Identify and catalog community resources in the areas of child care,  
25 economic development, health care, crime prevention, job training,  
26 and community development.

1           (4) Identify and document the long-term psychological and physiological  
2 effects of social policy and group behavior, seek root causes of youth  
3 violence, and develop substantive conflict resolution systems  
4 throughout society.

5           (5) Understand the nature of the race/socioeconomic class relationship and  
6 provide solutions and strategies in overcoming persistent barriers; and

7           Whereas, the Center represents our best hope of bringing together a  
8 multidisciplinary team of experts, public officials, human service agency leaders, and  
9 grassroots citizens to dig deeply into finding manageable solutions to today's complex  
10 social problems related to educational and economic disparities throughout society; and

11           Whereas, the Center serves as a Leadership Training Laboratory for creative  
12 thought, which will teach, motivate, and indoctrinate young people in the pursuit of  
13 educational disciplines that foster self-growth and development, leadership skills,  
14 reconciliation skills, spiritual enlightenment, and communication skills; and

15           Whereas, the Center has sought and received by unanimous vote of the Board  
16 of Governors of The University of North Carolina collaborative involvement and  
17 support among other private institutions of higher learning in North Carolina; and

18           Whereas, representatives of several of the constituent institutions of The  
19 University of North Carolina serve on the Center's Board of Directors; and

20           Whereas, the Center will benefit from the keenest minds of scholars and  
21 academicians from colleges and universities in the Triangle as well as the rest of the  
22 State and nation; and

23           Whereas, the Center's scholars will dutifully examine previously conducted  
24 studies and form ongoing collaborations with State institutions, agencies, commissions,  
25 and grassroots civic and community-based groups in conducting applied and clinical  
26 research; and

27           Whereas, the Center is positioned to become a state-of-the-art research  
28 facility that will serve as a repository for case studies and academic research from top  
29 scholars in the State and nation in the disciplines of sociology, psychology,  
30 anthropology, genetic biology, theology, economics, public safety, and technology; and

31           Whereas, the Center is located in Raleigh, but its operations, programs,  
32 research, and solutions will be made available to all organizations, elected officials,  
33 State, county, and municipal agencies, media outlets, and educational institutions  
34 throughout the State and nation via various forms of electronic and technological  
35 means; and

36           Whereas, the Center will be the "crown jewel" of innovative and proactive  
37 programs designed to improve race relations through racial reconciliation efforts; and

38           Whereas, the Center receives operating funds from private sources, including  
39 foundations, corporations, and civic organizations, but needs additional funding to  
40 accomplish its objectives; Now, therefore,

41 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

42           **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to The North  
43 Carolina Martin Luther King Resource Center, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, the sum of  
44 five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the 2003-2004 fiscal year for operating

1 expenses, provided these funds are matched on the basis of one dollar (\$1.00) of  
2 non-State funds for every two dollars (\$2.00) of State funds.

3 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2003.