

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE BILL 799**

Short Title: MLK Resource Center Funds. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Ross, B. Allen, Munford (Primary Sponsors); Insko, Weiss, and Luebke.

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Referred to: Appropriations, Subcommittee on General Government.

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March 31, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA MARTIN  
LUTHER KING RESOURCE CENTER.

Whereas, Martin Luther King, Jr. was driven by his vision of racial equality for all people and devoted his life and ministry to the pursuit of this dream; and

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

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

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

- (1) Collect data that supports strategies focused on the enhancement of racial and cultural cooperation, communication, and understanding.
- (2) Document disparity levels between ethnic and cultural groups relating to housing, educational attainment, and the availability of medical resources.
- (3) Identify and catalog community resources in the areas of child care, economic development, health care, crime prevention, job training, and community development.
- (4) Identify and document the long-term psychological and physiological effects of social policy and group behavior, seek root causes of youth

1 violence, and develop substantive conflict resolution systems  
2 throughout society.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

40 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to The North  
41 Carolina Martin Luther King Resource Center, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, the sum of  
42 five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the 2003-2004 fiscal year for operating  
43 expenses, provided these funds are matched on the basis of one dollar (\$1.00) of  
44 non-State funds for every two dollars (\$2.00) of State funds.

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