

- SUBJECT:** Prohibiting the Legislature from meeting on MLK's birthday
- COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 13 ayes — Wolens, S. Turner, Bailey, Counts, Craddick, Danburg, Hunter, D. Jones, Longoria, Marchant, McCall, McClendon, Merritt
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Brimer, Hilbert
- WITNESSES:** For — Myrtle L. Captain, Texas National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; *Registered but did not testify:* Gary Bledsoe, Texas National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Hannah Riddering, Texas National Organization for Women
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Current law does not prohibit the Legislature from meeting on legal holidays. During the regular legislative session, six legal state holidays occur — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Confederate Heroes Day, Presidents' Day, Texas Independence Day, San Jacinto Day, and Memorial Day. Generally, the Legislature meets on holidays that occur on weekdays, although this session, neither the House nor the Senate met on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the third Monday in January.
- DIGEST:** HB 399 would amend Government Code, sec. 301.011, to prohibit the Legislature from meeting on the legal holiday for the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 2001.
- NOTES:** The 76th Legislature in 1999 considered an identical bill, HB 3552 by Giddings, which passed the House, but died in the Senate Administration Committee.