

HB 240 -- Malcolm X Day Commission

Sponsor: Ellington

This bill establishes the Malcolm X Day Commission within the Office of the Governor to organize and coordinate activities and events to honor Malcolm X, culminating with a festival-style event the Saturday on or immediately prior to May 19, the birthday of Malcolm X. The activities and events must be designed to celebrate the life of Malcolm X; raise awareness about his legacy in the civil rights movement; and encourage the end of violence, crime, substance abuse, and self-loathing that continue to cripple low-income urban communities.

The commission is to consist of nine members appointed by the Governor including, but not limited to, educators, civic and community leaders, and people with a desire to keep Malcolm X's legacy alive. Members will serve four-year terms except for the first members appointed who will serve specified staggered terms. All members will serve without compensation but will be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred while performing their official duties. The Office of the Governor must provide funding, administrative support, and staff for the effective operation of the commission.