

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**SENATE DRS65209-LG-120 (03/25)**

Short Title: Folkmoot USA. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Queen; and Carpenter.

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Referred to:

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1  
2 AN ACT TO ADOPT FOLKMOOT USA AS NORTH CAROLINA'S OFFICIAL  
3 INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL.

4       Whereas, Folkmoot USA is an annual international festival held in Western  
5 North Carolina by North Carolina International Folk Festival, Inc., to promote the  
6 cultural exchange of traditional dance and music; and

7       Whereas, the name "Folkmoot" is an old English word meaning "meeting of  
8 the people"; and

9       Whereas, the first Folkmoot festival was held in 1984 and has grown to one  
10 of the largest folk festivals of its kind; and

11       Whereas, most of Folkmoot's participants are not professional dancers and  
12 musicians, but ordinary people who are proud of their culture and enjoy sharing it with  
13 others; and

14       Whereas, these diverse performers wear native costumes, play unique  
15 instruments, and perform authentic folk dances; and

16       Whereas, over the years, 190 folk groups representing 95 countries have  
17 participated in Folkmoot; and

18       Whereas, Folkmoot has been named a "Top 20 Event in the Southeast" by the  
19 Southeast Tourism Society for 16 years, a 2003 "Top 100 Event in America" by the  
20 North American Bus Association, and one of North Carolina's "Most Outstanding  
21 Festivals"; and

22       Whereas, Folkmoot's 70,000 annual visitors come from more than 40 states  
23 and from more than half of North Carolina's cities and towns; and

24       Whereas, Folkmoot creates a positive economic impact of almost four million  
25 dollars in the State; and

26       Whereas, Folkmoot is a great cultural resource that provides entertainment  
27 and education and promotes tourism in North Carolina; and

1           Whereas, adopting Folkmoot USA as North Carolina's official international  
2 folk festival will enhance the exchange of international culture and increase tourism in  
3 North Carolina; Now, therefore,

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5           **SECTION 1.** Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a  
6 new section to read:

7 **"§ 145-19. State International Folk Festival.**

8           Folkmoot USA is adopted as the official international folk festival of the State of  
9 North Carolina."

10           **SECTION 2.** The title of Chapter 145 reads as rewritten:

11                                           **"Chapter 145.**

12           **~~State Flower, Bird, Tree, Shell, Mammal, Fish, Insect, Stone, Reptile and Rock,~~**  
13           **~~Beverage, Historical Boat, Language, Dog, Military Academy, Tartan,~~**  
14           **~~Watermelon Festival, Symbols and Other Official Adoptions."~~**

15           **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.