

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

S

1

SENATE BILL 840

Short Title: Folkmoot USA. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Queen, Carpenter; Albertson, Allran, Apodaca, Ballantine, Basnight, Berger, Bingham, Blake, Brock, Carrington, Clodfelter, Dalton, Dannelly, Dorsett, Forrester, Foxx, Garrou, Garwood, Gulley, Hagan, Hargett, Hartsell, Holloman, Horton, Hoyle, Jenkins, Kerr, Kinnaird, Lucas, Malone, Metcalf, Moore, Pittenger, Purcell, Rand, Reeves, Rucho, Shaw, Shubert, Sloan, Smith, Soles, Stevens, Swindell, Thomas, Tillman, Webster, and Weinstein.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

April 3, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

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

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

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

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

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

11 **"§ 145-19. State International Folk Festival.**

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

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

15 **"Chapter 145.**

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

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