A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO PROTECT THE RIGHT TO CELEBRATE THE FOURTH OF JULY, IN
COMMENORATION OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED
STATES.
Whereas, on July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress adopted the final draft of
the Declaration of Independence, declaring freedom of the 13 American colonies from British
rule at a meeting held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and
  Whereas, the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence included three North
  Carolinians, William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, and John Penn; and
  Whereas, on May 16, 1783, the General Assembly "Resolved, that the fourth day of
  July be and is hereby appointed a day of General Thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God for
  the gracious Interposition of Divine Providence in behalf of this nation …"; and
  Whereas, the North Carolina General Assembly on May 16, 1783, passed a resolution
  commemorating the Fourth of July, and was the first State to do so; and
  Whereas, the first Fourth of July celebration in the country was proclaimed by
  Governor Alexander Martin in 1783 as a result of that resolution; and
  Whereas, Independence Day is the most important holiday celebrating our nation's
  founding; Now, therefore,
The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding G.S. 166A-19.30, the Governor shall not prohibit
parades, or firework displays discharged in accordance with Article 54 of Chapter 14 of the
General Statutes, to be held on July 4, commemorating the Declaration of Independence by the
United States.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding G.S. 166A-19.31, a municipality or county shall not
prohibit parades, or firework displays discharged in accordance with Article 54 of Chapter 14 of
the General Statutes, to be held on July 4, commemorating the Declaration of Independence by
the United States.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding G.S. 166A-19.30(d) and G.S. 166A-31(h), a person
shall not be prosecuted for the Class 2 misdemeanor for violation of a declaration or executive
order merely for the act of attending or participating in a parade, or firework display discharged
in accordance with Article 54 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes, held on July 4,
commemorating the Declaration of Independence by the United States.

SECTION 4. No person shall be liable civilly for any act or omission alleged to have
resulted in the contraction of COVID-19 during a parade, or firework display discharged in
accordance with Article 54 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes, held on July 4, unless the act
or omission amounts to gross negligence, willful or wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing.

This section does not apply to any of the following:

2. Claims arising later than one year after the expiration or rescission of Executive Order No. 116 issued March 10, 2020.

SECTION 5. This act is effective when it becomes law and expires when any applicable declaration of emergency prohibitions and restrictions expire or are terminated to permit parades and firework displays on the Fourth of July.