

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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HOUSE BILL 265*

Short Title: Burgaw/Official State Blueberry Festival. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hughes, Justice (Primary Sponsors); E. Floyd, McComas, and Stiller.

Referred to: Agriculture, if favorable, State Government/State Personnel.

February 24, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO DESIGNATE THE NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL HELD IN
BURGAW AS THE OFFICIAL STATE BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL.

Whereas, the first blueberry cultivation in North Carolina began in Pender County;
and

Whereas, in 1936, Harold Huntington of Cooperstown, New York, bought 1,000
acres of land between the Towns of Atkinson and Ivanhoe and planted blueberry bushes that he
brought from New Jersey; and

Whereas, today, there are more than 2,900 harvestable acres of blueberries in the
State with an estimated value of over \$43 million; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Blueberry Festival, which celebrates the historical,
economic, and cultural significance of blueberries in southeastern North Carolina, has become
an annual event; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

"§ 145-30. State Blueberry Festival.

The North Carolina Blueberry Festival held in the Town of Burgaw is adopted as the
official blueberry festival of the State of North Carolina."

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

