

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

H

2

HOUSE BILL 588  
Senate Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources Committee Substitute Adopted  
5/7/09

Short Title: Adopt Official NC Potato Festival.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 16, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ADOPT THE ALBEMARLE POTATO FESTIVAL AS THE OFFICIAL IRISH  
3 POTATO FESTIVAL OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

4 Whereas, North Carolina's northeast region has been home of the Albemarle Potato  
5 Festival, now known as the North Carolina Potato Festival, for over 24 years; and

6 Whereas, of the more than 17,000 acres statewide used for Irish potato cultivation,  
7 the northeast region of the Albemarle contains 12,000 of those acres; and

8 Whereas, the economic impact of Irish potato farming is at least 13 to 16 million  
9 dollars annually in the northeast region; and

10 Whereas, the festival showcases the Albemarle area's major Irish potato producing  
11 counties, with Pasquotank County being the largest producer in the State; and

12 Whereas, the festival entertainment, street fair, water activities, and evening dance  
13 draw attention throughout the northeast region; and

14 Whereas, the tourism industry flourishes during the North Carolina Potato Festival,  
15 benefiting the economy of not only the northeast region but also the entire State; Now,  
16 therefore,

17 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

20 "**§ 145-30. State potato festival.**

21 The Albemarle Potato Festival is adopted as the official Irish potato festival of the State of  
22 North Carolina."

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

