

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

H.B. 992
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30450-LGa-144A

Short Title: Azalea Festival/Official Spring Celebration. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Davis.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT ADOPTING THE NORTH CAROLINA AZALEA FESTIVAL AS THE OFFICIAL
3 CELEBRATION OF SPRING IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND
4 APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO PROMOTE THE FESTIVAL.

5 Whereas, the North Carolina Azalea Festival is held annually in Wilmington during
6 April and has celebrated the season of spring continuously since 1948; and

7 Whereas, the mission of the North Carolina Azalea Festival is to be nationally
8 recognized as a showcase for the community's rich array of artwork, gardens, history, and culture
9 through recreational, educational, and family-oriented events. The Festival encourages
10 volunteerism and civic participation as it contributes to the region's economy and promotes the
11 unique qualities of Wilmington's river-to-the-sea community; and

12 Whereas, the North Carolina Azalea Festival has an annual economic impact of over
13 \$50 million to Wilmington and the surrounding region; and

14 Whereas, every year, the North Carolina Azalea Festival brings in nationally
15 recognized touring artists and guests to enjoy the southern charm and hospitality of Wilmington
16 and the City's one million azaleas; and

17 Whereas, the North Carolina Azalea Festival is regularly selected as a Southeast
18 Tourism Society's Top 20 Event in April; and

19 Whereas, the North Carolina Azalea Festival has won numerous international awards
20 through the International Festivals and Events Association; and

21 Whereas, the North Carolina Azalea Festival's volunteers won the Governor's
22 Medallion for Volunteer Service in 2017 for their dedication to this annual springtime community
23 event; and

24 Whereas, each year, the Governor of North Carolina proclaims the Azalea Festival
25 dates in honor of the North Carolina Azalea Festival and commends its observance to all North
26 Carolina citizens; and

27 Whereas, the North Carolina Azalea Festival should be adopted as the official
28 celebration of spring in the State of North Carolina; Now, therefore,
29 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

32 "**§ 145-49. Official celebration of spring.**

33 The North Carolina Azalea Festival is adopted as the official celebration of spring in the State
34 of North Carolina."

35 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
36 Commerce the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year in



1 nonrecurring funds to promote the official celebration of spring as established in Section 1 of this
2 act.
3 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2018, and the remainder
4 of this act is effective when it becomes law.