

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019**

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**HOUSE BILL 394
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/1/19**

Short Title: Official State Cookie & Battleship.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 21, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT ADOPTING THE MORAVIAN COOKIE AS THE OFFICIAL STATE COOKIE
3 AND THE USS NORTH CAROLINA (BB-55) AS THE OFFICIAL STATE BATTLESHIP.

4 Whereas, during the 18th century, settlers from the European kingdom of Moravia
5 traveled to America and founded the town of Salem (now Winston-Salem) in North Carolina in
6 1766; and

7 Whereas, when the Moravians settled in North Carolina, they brought with them a
8 spice cookie similar to the German Lebkuchen cookie; and

9 Whereas, these thin spice cookies are known as Moravian cookies and made of
10 ingredients such as molasses, allspice, and ginger; and

11 Whereas, the Moravian cookie is one of the most popular cookies in North Carolina;
12 and

13 Whereas, Moravian cookies have been made and sold in Winston-Salem since the
14 1950s and millions of pounds of cookies are baked, packaged, and distributed worldwide
15 annually; and

16 Whereas, sales of Moravian cookies promote tourism in the State and contribute to
17 the State's economy; and

18 Whereas, it is fitting to recognize the positive impact the Moravians have had on the
19 State's culture by adopting the Moravian cookie as the official cookie of the State of North
20 Carolina; and

21 Whereas, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) became the first of 10 fast battleships to
22 join the American fleet during World War II; and

23 Whereas, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) was commissioned on April 9, 1941, and
24 was considered the world's greatest sea weapon; and

25 Whereas, during the war, the crew of the USS North Carolina (BB-55) consisted of
26 144 commissioned officers and 2,195 enlisted men, including about 100 Marines; and

27 Whereas, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) participated in every major naval
28 offensive in the Pacific area of operations and earned 15 battle stars; and

29 Whereas, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) served as a training vessel for midshipmen
30 before being decommissioned on June 27, 1947; and

31 Whereas, in 1958, citizens of North Carolina began a statewide campaign known as
32 Save Our Ship (SOS) to save the ship from being scrapped; and

33 Whereas, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) was moored in Wilmington on October 2,
34 1961; and

35 Whereas, on April 29, 1962, the ship was dedicated as a historic landmark, a museum
36 collecting and interpreting all ships named "North Carolina," and as a memorial to the World



1 War II veterans and the 11,000 North Carolinians of all branches of service who died during the
2 war; and

3 Whereas, in March 1986, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) became one of 22 ships to
4 be registered as a national historic landmark; and

5 Whereas, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) is a State historic site and a major tourist
6 attraction, bringing in between \$1.5 to \$3.5 million annually to the State and local economy and
7 attracting over 250,000 visitors; and

8 Whereas, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) accounts for over 3,500 jobs in New
9 Hanover County each year; and

10 Whereas, the Moravian cookie and the USS North Carolina (BB-55) should be
11 adopted as official State symbols; Now, therefore,
12 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

13 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding new sections
14 to read:

15 **"§ 145-52. Official State cookie.**

16 The Moravian cookie is adopted as the official cookie of the State of North Carolina.

17 **"§ 145-53. Official State battleship.**

18 The Battleship USS North Carolina (BB-55) is adopted as the official warship of the State of
19 North Carolina."

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