

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023**

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SENATE BILL 159

Short Title: Designate State Balloon Rally. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Sawyer (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

February 27, 2023

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT ADOPTING THE CAROLINA BALLOONFEST HELD IN THE CITY OF
3 STATESVILLE AS THE OFFICIAL BALLOON RALLY OF THE STATE OF NORTH
4 CAROLINA.

5 Whereas, the City of Statesville has held a hot air balloon festival since 1974 and
6 holds the record as the second oldest hot air balloon festival in the United States; and

7 Whereas, the current festival is known as Carolina BalloonFest and is a
8 family-friendly, three-day event held each year in October; and

9 Whereas, the Carolina BalloonFest features colorful hot air balloons, sanctioned
10 competitions, hot air balloon flights, tethered balloon rides, live entertainment, a balloon glow, a
11 kids zone, wine and craft beer tasting, crafts, and many more activities; and

12 Whereas, the Carolina BalloonFest attracts thousands of visitors each year,
13 contributing to the local economy; and

14 Whereas, the Carolina BalloonFest donates a percentage of the proceeds from the
15 festival to local nonprofits and community organizations; and

16 Whereas, the Carolina BalloonFest should be adopted as the State's official balloon
17 rally; Now, therefore,

18 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

21 **"§ 145-52. State balloon rally.**

22 The Carolina BalloonFest, held in October of every year in the City of Statesville, is adopted
23 as the official balloon rally of the State of North Carolina."

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

