

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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**SENATE BILL 840
Rules and Operations of the Senate Committee Substitute Adopted 4/30/03
House Committee Substitute Favorable 5/28/03**

Short Title: NC's Official International Festival.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 3, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO ADOPT FOLKMOT USA AS NORTH CAROLINA'S OFFICIAL
2 INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL AND ADOPTING THE CAROLINA LILY AS
3 THE OFFICIAL WILDFLOWER OF NORTH CAROLINA.
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5 Whereas, Folkmoot USA is an annual international festival held in Western
6 North Carolina by North Carolina International Folk Festival, Inc., to promote the
7 cultural exchange of traditional dance and music; and

8 Whereas, the name "Folkmoot" is an old English word meaning "meeting of
9 the people"; and

10 Whereas, the first Folkmoot festival was held in 1984 and has grown to one
11 of the largest folk festivals of its kind; and

12 Whereas, most of Folkmoot's worldwide participants are not professional
13 dancers and musicians, but ordinary people who are proud of their culture and enjoy
14 sharing it with others; and

15 Whereas, these diverse, international performers wear native costumes, play
16 unique instruments, and perform authentic folk dances; and

17 Whereas, over the years, 190 folk groups representing 95 countries have
18 participated in Folkmoot; and

19 Whereas, Folkmoot has been named a "Top 20 Event in the Southeast" by the
20 Southeast Tourism Society for 16 years, a 2003 "Top 100 Event in America" by the
21 North American Bus Association, and one of North Carolina's "Most Outstanding
22 Festivals"; and

23 Whereas, Folkmoot's 70,000 annual visitors come from more than 40 states
24 and from more than half of North Carolina's cities and towns; and

25 Whereas, Folkmoot creates a positive economic impact of almost four million
26 dollars in the State; and

27 Whereas, Folkmoot is a great cultural resource that provides entertainment
28 and education and promotes tourism in North Carolina; and

1 Whereas, adopting Folkmoot USA as North Carolina's official international
2 festival will enhance the exchange of international culture and increase tourism in North
3 Carolina; and

4 Whereas, North Carolina is blessed with an abundance of wildflowers from
5 the mountains to the coast; and

6 Whereas, the Carolina Lily is a scarce and beautiful flower that is found
7 throughout North Carolina in upland pine-oak woods and pocosins; and

8 Whereas, the Carolina Lily (*Lilium michauxii*) is one of many plants named
9 for the distinguished French botanist Andre Michaux who traveled widely in the
10 southeastern United States; and

11 Whereas, Andre Michaux (1747-1802), a genuine hero of science and
12 exploration, referred to the North Carolina mountains as "the great botanical laboratory
13 and paradise of North America"; and

14 Whereas, the Carolina Lily, sometimes referred to as Michaux's Lily, bears up
15 to six reddish-yellow, spotted flowers with petals that bend backwards; and

16 Whereas, each nodding flower grows to about three inches in diameter; and

17 Whereas, this magnificent flower bears the name of our great State; and

18 Whereas, the State of North Carolina does not have an official wildflower;

19 Now, therefore,

20 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

23 **"§ 145-19. State International Festival.**

24 **Folkmoot USA is adopted as the official international festival of the State of North**
25 **Carolina."**

26 **SECTION 2.** The title of Chapter 145 reads as rewritten:

27 **"Chapter 145.**

28 **~~State Flower, Bird, Tree, Shell, Mammal, Fish, Insect, Stone, Reptile and Rock,~~**
29 **~~Beverage, Historical Boat, Language, Dog, Military Academy, Tartan,~~**
30 **~~Watermelon Festival, Symbols and Other Official Adoptions."~~**

31 **SECTION 3.** Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a
32 new section to read:

33 **"§ 145-20. State wildflower.**

34 **The Carolina Lily (*Lilium michauxii*) is adopted as the official wildflower of the**
35 **State of North Carolina."**

36 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.