

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

H.B. 51
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10036-LG-39

Short Title: Official Azalea Festival. (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 AZALEA FESTIVAL IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 Whereas, the North Carolina Azalea Festival should be adopted as the official azalea
27 festival of the State of North Carolina; Now, therefore,
28 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

31 **"§ 145-52. Official azalea festival.**

32 **The North Carolina Azalea Festival held in the City of Wilmington is adopted as the official**
33 **azalea festival of the State of North Carolina.**"

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

