

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1997**

**H**

**1**

**HOUSE BILL 638**

Short Title: Official State Dance.

(Public)

---

Sponsors: Representatives Jeffus; Adams, Gardner, Goodwin, Hall, Hurley, Smith, and Watson.

---

Referred to: Rules, Calendar and Operations of the House.

---

March 27, 1997

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

**AN ACT TO DESIGNATE THE SQUARE DANCE AS THE AMERICAN FOLK  
DANCE OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.**

Whereas, North Carolina has distinctive and meaningful symbols of its ideals in the State's flag and in many cultural endeavors, but no official designation of a State folk dance; and

Whereas, the square dance, which was first associated with the American people and recorded in history since 1651, has consistently been the one dance traditionally recognized by the American people as a dignified and enjoyable expression of American folk dancing; and

Whereas, square dancing is a traditional form of family recreation which symbolizes a basic strength of this country, namely the unity of family; and

Whereas, because of its exercise value, square dancing is an activity which fosters good health among the dancers; and

Whereas, square dancing is an activity for young and old and encourages fellowship among the dancers; and

Whereas, square dancing is the American folk dance which is called, cued, or prompted to the dancers, and includes squares, rounds, clogging, contra, line, and heritage dances; and

1           Whereas, numerous states have adopted the square dance as their state dance,  
2 including South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, and Maryland; and

3           Whereas, official recognition of the square dance will enhance the cultural  
4 stature of North Carolina both nationally and internationally; and

5           Whereas, national and international prestige is in the best interest of all  
6 Americans; and

7           Whereas, it is fitting that the square dance be added to the array of State  
8 symbols; Now, therefore,

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10           Section 1. Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
11 section to read:

12 **"§ 145-18. State dance.**

13           The square dance is adopted as the American folk dance of North Carolina."

14           Section 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.