

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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HOUSE DRH60114-LG-49 (02/26)

Short Title: Liberty Day.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Pate.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT ESTABLISHING LIBERTY DAY IN THE STATE OF NORTH
2 CAROLINA.
3

4 Whereas, as Americans, we enjoy the rights and liberties guaranteed by our
5 founding fathers in the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution
6 with its Bill of Rights; and

7 Whereas, James Madison was a contributing author of the Virginia Plan, the
8 model and basis for the United States Constitution that emerged from the Constitutional
9 Convention of 1787; and

10 Whereas, James Madison kept written records of the debates had and
11 compromises made at the Convention and those debates and compromises were also
12 incorporated into the constitution; and

13 Whereas, these records were made public upon the death of all the delegates
14 to the Convention and were published around 1840; and

15 Whereas, James Madison along with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay wrote
16 many of the newspaper articles that outlined the reasons the states should endorse the
17 new constitution; and

18 Whereas, these articles became known as the Federalist Papers and still stand
19 as some of the best arguments for our form of government, a representative republic;
20 and

21 Whereas, James Madison served in the United States House of
22 Representatives from 1789 until 1797, during which time he introduced the Bill of
23 Rights, which was ratified by the states in 1791; and

24 Whereas, James Madison was Secretary of State from 1801 until 1809, and
25 President of the United States from 1809 until 1817; and

26 Whereas, it is only fitting that the 16th day of March, the birthday of James
27 Madison, serve as Liberty Day, a day upon which North Carolinians can commemorate

1 the freedoms that were given to every American by the Declaration of Independence
2 and the extraordinary rights and liberties that were given by the United States
3 Constitution; Now, therefore,

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 103 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a
6 new section to read:

7 "**§ 103-11. Liberty Day.**

8 The sixteenth day of March of each year is designated as Liberty Day in North
9 Carolina."

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