

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1991**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION 1096**

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Sponsors: Senators Hyde; Winner and Barnes.

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Referred to: Rules Suspended, Introduced, Referred to Committee on Constitution.

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June 1, 1992

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE THE SEVEN HUNDRED  
2 SEVENTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAGNA CARTA.

3       Whereas, on June 15, 1215, King John of England set his seal to a document  
4 granting certain privileges and rights to his subjects, which document was later called  
5 the Magna Carta, or the Great Charter; and

6       Whereas, this document consists of a preamble and 63 clauses, written in  
7 Latin, and was presented by the King to a group of rebellious barons at Runnymede, a  
8 meadow beside the Thames not far from London; and

9       Whereas, on the eve of the Magna Carta, King John had alienated most of his  
10 kingdom by demanding excessive military service, favoring friends, selling offices,  
11 increasing old taxes, imposing new taxes without consent, deciding cases by royal  
12 whim, and collecting crushing fines; and

13       Whereas, certain provisions were extremely influential as the "seeds" of the  
14 principle of due process of law that guarantees persons freedom from arbitrary  
15 imprisonment or punishment and assures proper judicial trial; and

16       Whereas, in the United States the Magna Carta has served as a source book of  
17 basic principles for our national and other state constitutions; and

18       Whereas, Section 19 of Article I of the North Carolina Constitution which  
19 provides that "no person....shall be deprived of his life, liberty, or property, but by the  
20 law of the land" is directly traceable to the Magna Carta and guarantees justice in a court  
21 of law; and

22       Whereas, the Magna Carta, having granted liberties and privileges that were  
23 to become fundamental legal rights, is today regarded as the cornerstone of English  
24 liberty;

25 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate:

1                   Section 1. The Senate commemorates the 777th anniversary of the Magna  
2 Carta and its contribution to the development of constitutional government and an  
3 impartial judicial system throughout English-speaking countries.

4                   Sec. 2. This resolution is effective upon adoption.