

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1999**

**S  
Resolution  
Adopted**

**Simple**

**SENATE RESOLUTION 1351**

Rules and Operations of the Senate Committee Substitute Senate Resolution Adopted  
6/20/00

Adopted 6/21/00

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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May 22, 2000

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING BENSON'S EIGHTIETH  
2 ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL SINGING CONVENTION.

3 Whereas, the State Annual Singing Convention is held the fourth weekend in  
4 June each year; and

5 Whereas, the founders of the "State Annual Singing Convention", Simon P.  
6 Honeycutt, J.B. Raynor, J.H. Rose, J.V. Barefoot, and T.C. Miller, along with other  
7 interested people, did inaugurate the first of these sessions to be held annually in the  
8 Town of Benson; and

9 Whereas, church choirs and other groups from that time have come to sing the  
10 songs of their faith in the "Singing Grove", for the most part, on East Main Street each  
11 year since its beginning in 1921; and

12 Whereas, memorial services held each year on Sunday bring these folks, and  
13 others who have continued their efforts, to mind; and

14 Whereas, the efforts to produce and promote this event by many interested  
15 people over the years have made and kept it an important part to the community's life;  
16 and

1           Whereas, the "Sing" has and continues to provide an atmosphere for Christian  
2 fellowship, inspiration, and good, clean, wholesome family fun, and entertainment; and

3           Whereas, the North Carolina Senate recognizes the importance of the event to  
4 the singers and groups who have come from across North Carolina and surrounding states  
5 to give the real life to the "Sing"; and

6           Whereas, thankfully, each generation has furnished folks who have taken the  
7 task in hand to continue this part of Benson's and North Carolina's heritage; and

8           Whereas, the echoes of the gospel songs and the applause of past audiences  
9 will forever ring among the tops of the trees of the Grove; and

10          Whereas, considerable investments have been made by the citizens and  
11 business community of the Town of Benson in the acquisition of the "Grove" property  
12 and the construction of the present and former facilities; and

13          Whereas, all who now are connected with the event recognize the generosity of  
14 and give thanks to the early A.M. and Katherine Denning families who for years donated  
15 the "Grove" for the use of the "Sing"; and

16          Whereas, the North Carolina Senate recognizes the wisdom of the founders in  
17 establishing the "Sing", the efforts of the Town of Benson, its employees and its citizens,  
18 Mayor Don H. Johnson, the Town Council, and the directors and officers of the  
19 "Sing" and appreciate their support, dedication, and assistance; and

20          Whereas, the "Sing" is now recognized across the State and nation as a place  
21 where Southern Gospel Music prevails at its best; and

22          Whereas, the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) has selected the State Annual  
23 Singing Convention for the production of a two-hour documentary; and

24          Whereas, the 80th anniversary of the State Annual Singing Convention is to be  
25 held June 23-25, 2000; Now, therefore,

26 Be it resolved by the Senate:

27          Section 1. The Senate commends and applauds the Sing Directors and  
28 Committees and joins with them in inviting all to attend, as singers or audience, the 80th  
29 anniversary of the State Annual Singing Convention in the Town of Benson to celebrate  
30 the rich heritage and tradition of this significant occasion and event.

31          Section 2. This resolution is to be made a part of the official records of the  
32 North Carolina Senate and a copy of it to be furnished to the Town of Benson, the 80th  
33 State Annual Singing Convention Committee, and its president, Bobby Johnson.

34          Section 3. This resolution is effective upon adoption.