

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019**

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**HOUSE BILL 460
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/6/19**

Short Title: Official State Battleship.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 27, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT ADOPTING THE USS NORTH CAROLINA (BB-55) AS THE OFFICIAL STATE
2 BATTLESHIP.
3

4 Whereas, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) became the first of 10 fast battleships to
5 join the American fleet during World War II; and

6 Whereas, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) was commissioned on April 9, 1941, and
7 was considered the world's greatest sea weapon; and

8 Whereas, during the war, the crew of the USS North Carolina (BB-55) consisted of
9 144 commissioned officers and 2,195 enlisted men, including about 100 Marines; and

10 Whereas, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) participated in every major naval
11 offensive in the Pacific area of operations and earned 15 battle stars; and

12 Whereas, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) served as a training vessel for midshipmen
13 before being decommissioned on June 27, 1947; and

14 Whereas, in 1958, citizens of North Carolina began a statewide campaign known as
15 Save Our Ship (SOS) to save the ship from being scrapped; and

16 Whereas, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) was moored in Wilmington on October 2,
17 1961; and

18 Whereas, on April 29, 1962, the ship was dedicated as a historic landmark, a museum
19 collecting and interpreting all ships named "North Carolina," and as a memorial to the World
20 War II veterans and the 11,000 North Carolinians of all branches of service who died during the
21 war; and

22 Whereas, in March 1986, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) became one of 22 ships to
23 be registered as a national historic landmark; and

24 Whereas, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) is a State historic site and a major tourist
25 attraction, bringing in between \$1.5 to \$3.5 million annually to the State and local economy and
26 attracting over 250,000 visitors; and

27 Whereas, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) accounts for over 3,500 jobs in New
28 Hanover County each year; and

29 Whereas, the USS North Carolina (BB-55) should be adopted as an official State
30 symbol; Now, therefore,

31 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

34 **"§ 145-53. Official State battleship.**

35 The Battleship USS North Carolina (BB-55) is adopted as the official warship of the State of
36 North Carolina."



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