

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025**

H

1

HOUSE BILL 43

Short Title: Designate State Balloon Rally. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Carver, Setzer, McNeely, and Ross (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: State and Local Government, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the
House

February 5, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT ADOPTING THE CAROLINA BALLOONFEST HELD IN THE CITY OF
3 STATESVILLE AS THE OFFICIAL BALLOON RALLY OF THE STATE OF NORTH
4 CAROLINA.

5 Whereas, the City of Statesville has held a hot air balloon festival since 1974, making
6 this year its 50th anniversary; and

7 Whereas, Statesville's balloon festival holds the record as the second oldest hot air
8 balloon festival in the United States; and

9 Whereas, the current festival is known as Carolina BalloonFest and is a
10 family-friendly, three-day event held each year in October; and

11 Whereas, the Carolina BalloonFest features colorful hot air balloons, sanctioned
12 competitions, hot air balloon flights, tethered balloon rides, live entertainment, a balloon glow, a
13 kids zone, wine and craft beer tasting, crafts, and many more activities; and

14 Whereas, the Carolina BalloonFest attracts thousands of visitors each year,
15 contributing to the local economy; and

16 Whereas, the Carolina BalloonFest donates a percentage of the proceeds from the
17 festival to local nonprofits and community organizations; and

18 Whereas, the Carolina BalloonFest should be adopted as the State's official balloon
19 rally; Now, therefore,

20 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

23 "**§ 145-52. State balloon rally.**

24 The Carolina BalloonFest, held in October of every year in the City of Statesville, is adopted
25 as the official balloon rally of the State of North Carolina."

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

