

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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HOUSE BILL 470

Short Title: Liberty Day.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Pate; Justice, Setzer, and Capps.

Referred to: State Government.

March 13, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT ESTABLISHING LIBERTY DAY IN THE STATE OF NORTH
CAROLINA.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas, it is only fitting that the 16th day of March, the birthday of James Madison, serve as Liberty Day, a day upon which North Carolinians can commemorate the freedoms that were given to every American by the Declaration of Independence

1 and the extraordinary rights and liberties that were given by the United States
2 Constitution; Now, therefore,

3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

6 **"§ 103-11. Liberty Day.**

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

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