

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2011**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 651\***

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Sponsors:     Representatives Luebke and Rhyne (Primary Sponsors).  
                         For a complete list of Sponsors, see Bill Information on the NCGA Web Site.

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Referred to:   Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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April 6, 2011

1    A JOINT RESOLUTION TO PARDON WILLIAM W. HOLDEN FROM THE JUDGMENT  
2        IMPOSED UPON HIM BY THE SENATE ON MARCH 22, 1871, ON CONVICTION OF  
3        ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT.

4            Whereas, Governor William W. Holden was first elected following the ratification  
5 of the 1868 Constitution of North Carolina; and

6            Whereas, Governor William W. Holden supported political equality for newly  
7 emancipated North Carolinians; and

8            Whereas, Governor William W. Holden dispatched the State militia to Alamance  
9 and Caswell counties to stop the violence being caused by the Ku Klux Klan; and

10           Whereas, Governor William W. Holden's steadfast resistance to the Klan led to his  
11 being impeached and removed from office; and

12           Whereas, the vote to impeach was along party lines to remove the Republican  
13 governor from any other public service; and

14           Whereas, Governor William W. Holden was the first governor in the United States  
15 to be removed from office; and

16           Whereas, the power of pardon is inherent in the State, and since the Constitution  
17 does not delegate the power of pardon of an impeachment to the Governor, it remains available  
18 for exercise by the General Assembly; and

19           Whereas, the power of impeachment by the House and conviction by the Senate is  
20 not evidenced by passage of legislation but by assignment of this power to the legislative  
21 branch, it is an inherent internal power of the legislative branch to reverse; Now, therefore,  
22 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

23            **SECTION 1.** William W. Holden is pardoned from the judgment imposed upon  
24 him March 22, 1871, by the Senate, sitting as a court of impeachment.

25            **SECTION 2.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.

