

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

H

1

HOUSE BILL 444*

Short Title: Establish Liberty Day. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Pate; Blackwood, Faison, Frye, McGee, Rhodes, and Starnes.

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

March 2, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT DESIGNATING LIBERTY DAY IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

2 Whereas, Liberty Day is a nonpartisan celebration to commemorate the
3 Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution; and

4 Whereas, Liberty Day is celebrated throughout the United States on March
5 16th, the birthday of James Madison, who served as President of the United States from
6 1809 until 1817; and

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

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

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

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

19 Whereas, all citizens should be aware of the significance and content of both
20 the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution in order that voters
21 might appreciate the incredible rights and responsibilities to be found in those
22 documents; and

23 Whereas, approximately 25 states have passed legislation designating Liberty
24 Day; Now, therefore,

25 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

26 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 103 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a
27 new section to read:
28

1 **"§ 103-11. Liberty Day.**

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

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