

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

**HOUSE BILL 588  
RATIFIED BILL**

**AN ACT TO ADOPT THE ALBEMARLE POTATO FESTIVAL AS THE OFFICIAL IRISH  
POTATO FESTIVAL OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.**

Whereas, North Carolina's northeast region has been home of the Albemarle Potato Festival, now known as the North Carolina Potato Festival, for over 24 years; and

Whereas, of the more than 17,000 acres statewide used for Irish potato cultivation, the northeast region of the Albemarle contains 12,000 of those acres; and

Whereas, the economic impact of Irish potato farming is at least 13 to 16 million dollars annually in the northeast region; and

Whereas, the festival showcases the Albemarle area's major Irish potato producing counties, with Pasquotank County being the largest producer in the State; and

Whereas, the festival entertainment, street fair, water activities, and evening dance draw attention throughout the northeast region; and

Whereas, the tourism industry flourishes during the North Carolina Potato Festival, benefiting the economy of not only the northeast region but also the entire State; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

**"§ 145-30. State potato festival.**

**The Albemarle Potato Festival is adopted as the official Irish potato festival of the State of North Carolina.**"



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

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May,

2009.

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Walter H. Dalton  
President of the Senate

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Joe Hackney  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Beverly E. Perdue  
Governor

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ .m. this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009