

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE DRS55172-LG-64 (2/12)

Short Title: Folkmoot USA Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Queen.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO SUPPORT FOLKMOT USA'S COMMUNITY
3 INTERNATIONAL ARTS AND CULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

4 Whereas, Folkmoot USA, North Carolina's official International Festival, is a
5 two-week celebration of the world's cultural heritage through folk music and dance; and

6 Whereas, Folkmoot USA is held for two weeks each summer across the beautiful
7 mountains of Western North Carolina; and

8 Whereas, Folkmoot USA holds over 25 events each year in over eight different
9 counties; and

10 Whereas, Folkmoot USA features performances, parades, and workshops by more
11 than 350 performers from a dozen or so countries; and

12 Whereas, during its 26-year history, over 200 folk groups from more than 100
13 countries from all over the globe have shared their heritage and culture at Folkmoot USA; and

14 Whereas, Folkmoot USA continues to have a positive fiscal impact in western North
15 Carolina; and

16 Whereas, in 2007 Folkmoot USA contributed \$4,026,684 to the local economy,
17 which included a direct impact in terms of payroll expenditures, other operating expenditures,
18 and attendee spending of \$2,828,486 and indirect and induced effects of these same categories
19 of \$526,907 and \$607,290, respectively; and

20 Whereas, Folkmoot USA also created and maintained 56.6 jobs during that same
21 year; and

22 Whereas, Folkmoot USA is the largest event of the International Council of
23 Organizations for Folklore Festivals and Folk Art (CIOFF) sponsored events in the United
24 States; and

25 Whereas, Folkmoot USA's contributions to the cultural life of the community and
26 the enhancement of the region's reputation make it a tourism destination; and

27 Whereas, Folkmoot USA has been cited by the Southeast Tourism Society as one of
28 the top 20 events in the Southeast United States; Now, therefore,
29 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

30 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to Folkmoot USA, a
31 nonprofit organization, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2009-2010
32 fiscal year and the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2010-2011 fiscal
33 year in recurring funds to support Folkmoot USA's community international arts and cultural
34 education programs which serve Western North Carolina.

35 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.

