

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

H

2

HOUSE BILL 382

Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee Substitute Adopted 9/27/01

Short Title: Adopt State Fruit and Berries.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 1, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT ADOPTING THE OFFICIAL FRUIT AND BERRIES OF NORTH
3 CAROLINA.

4 **PART I. NORTH CAROLINA'S HERITAGE OF FARMING.**

5 Whereas, North Carolina's economy originated and developed as an agrarian
6 economy with a cornucopia of fruits and vegetables; and

7 Whereas, the State takes great pride in its rich heritage of farming; and

8 Whereas, there are still many families who base their livelihood in farming
9 and who are continuing the North Carolina tradition of producing goods from our land;
10 and

11 Whereas, one of the main sources of agricultural production in the State is the
12 production of fruits and berries of several varieties; and

13 **PART II. THE SCUPPERNONG GRAPE.**

14 Whereas, North Carolina is the home of our nation's first cultivated grape, the
15 Scuppernong; and

16 Whereas, the Scuppernong grape was named after the Scuppernong River in
17 North Carolina; and

18 Whereas, British explorers in 1584 and 1585 reported to Queen Elizabeth and
19 Sir Walter Raleigh that the barrier islands of what is now, in part, Roanoke Island were
20 full of grapes and that the soil of the land was "so abounding with sweet trees that bring
21 rich and most pleasant gummes, grapes of such greatness, yet wild, as France, Spain,
22 nor Italy hath not greater..."; and

23 Whereas, Sir Walter Raleigh's colony discovered the famous Scuppernong
24 "Mother Vineyard" on Roanoke Island, a vine that is now over 400 years old and has a
25 trunk over two feet thick; and

26 Whereas, the State toast, penned in 1904, references North Carolina as the
27 land "[w]here the scuppernong perfumes the breeze at night,"; and

28 **PART III. THE STRAWBERRY AND THE BLUEBERRY.**

1 Whereas, there are over 1,700 acres of strawberries and over 3,600 acres of
2 blueberries harvested in North Carolina each year; and

3 Whereas, in 2000, strawberry growers in the State produced 23,000,000
4 pounds of strawberries, yielding \$17,325,000 in revenues; and

5 Whereas, in 2000, blueberry growers in the State produced 17,500,000
6 pounds of blueberries, resulting in an increase in the State's economy of over
7 \$18,000,000 in revenues; and

8 Whereas, these delicious berries are a good source of vitamins, a number of
9 life-sustaining minerals, and dietary fiber;

10 Whereas, the blueberry is an antioxidant, which has been proven to reduce
11 cholesterol and lower the risk of heart disease; and

12 Whereas, each year the Town of Chadbourn in Columbus County hosts the
13 North Carolina Strawberry Festival, which is one of the most celebrated traditions in the
14 State; and

15 Whereas, the State of North Carolina does not have an official fruit nor an
16 official berry; Now, therefore,

17 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

20 **"§ 145-18. State fruit and State berries.**

21 (a) The official fruit of the State of North Carolina is the Scuppernong grape
22 (Vitis genus).

23 (b) The official red berry of the State is the strawberry (Fragaria genus).

24 (c) The official blue berry of the State is the blueberry (Vaccinium genus)."

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