

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR30246-LB-188 (3/26)

Sponsors: Representatives Goodwin, McMahan, L. Johnson, Barnhart (Primary Sponsors); and Creech.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING NASCAR TO RETAIN THE CURRENT
2 FIVE WINSTON CUP RACES IN THIS STATE, TWO AT NORTH CAROLINA
3 SPEEDWAY AND THREE AT LOWE'S MOTOR SPEEDWAY, AND
4 COMMEMORATING NASCAR AND ITS PIONEERS AS NORTH CAROLINA
5 IS THE STOCK CAR RACING CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.

6 Whereas, "The Rock", the local name of The North Carolina Speedway,
7 began as a dream of several local businessmen in the early 1960s; and

8 Whereas, North Carolina Speedway opened October 31, 1965, and was
9 rebuilt in 1969; and

10 Whereas, today, the 1.017-mile superspeedway has become one of the most
11 popular stops on the NASCAR Winston Cup Series and NASCAR Busch Series Grand
12 National Division schedules; and

13 Whereas, The Rock currently hosts two NASCAR Winston Cup Series races:
14 the Subway 400 in February and the Pop Secret Microwave Popcorn 400 in November;
15 and

16 Whereas, located in the heart of stock car country, North Carolina Speedway
17 is most noted for its fan-friendly atmosphere and Southern hospitality; and

18 Whereas, Richmond County, site of The Rock, is the fifth most economically
19 depressed county in the State; and

20 Whereas, loss of a single NASCAR Winston Cup race at the North Carolina
21 Speedway would reduce the speedway's economic impact on the region a minimum of
22 \$25 million per year; and

23 Whereas, the net decrease in tax revenue collections for the State and local
24 governments would be significant; and

25 Whereas, Lowe's Motor Speedway opened in June of 1960 as Charlotte
26 Motor Speedway; and

1 Whereas, that year saw the first running of the World 600 (now the
2 Coca-Cola 600) and the National 500 (now the UAW-GM Quality 500); and

3 Whereas, those two races have been run at Lowe's Motor Speedway every
4 year since; and

5 Whereas, the Winston All Star race has been run at Lowe's Motor Speedway
6 every year since 1987; and

7 Whereas, loss of a single NASCAR Winston Cup race at Lowe's Motor
8 Speedway would reduce the speedway's economic impact on the State of North
9 Carolina a minimum of \$80 million per year; and

10 Whereas, this loss would also result in a significant decrease in jobs and tax
11 revenue collections for the State and local governments, in addition to the speedway
12 itself; and

13 Whereas, job losses would occur in the local hotel, restaurant, retail and
14 racing-related businesses in the vicinity of Lowe's Motor Speedway, estimated at 600
15 positions; and

16 Whereas, the net decrease in tax revenue collections for the State and local
17 governments would be in excess of \$3.2 million per year; and

18 Whereas, motorsports is becoming big business and its need for engineering
19 professionals is increasing, and to that end the State of North Carolina has funded the
20 William States Lee College of Engineering at UNC Charlotte to offer a concentration in
21 Motorsports Engineering; and

22 Whereas, more NASCAR teams are located in North Carolina than in any
23 other state, and North Carolina is the auto-racing capital of the United States; and

24 Whereas, after World War II, stock car racing evolved as a sport in the
25 foothills and Piedmont of North Carolina, quickly becoming one of the deepest
26 traditions in North Carolina popular culture; and

27 Whereas, several world-class tracks stretch across the State and provide fans
28 a chance to watch the legends of the sport every year; and

29 Whereas, North Carolina was the birthplace or home of such NASCAR
30 legends as the late Dale Earnhardt and the late Lee Petty, and the General Assembly
31 desires to commemorate their memory; and

32 Whereas, NASCAR has expanded to a national sport; and

33 Whereas, discussions have been had about moving one or more NASCAR
34 races out of North Carolina; and

35 Whereas, to be true to its roots, NASCAR should maintain a maximum racing
36 presence in North Carolina; Now, therefore,

37 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

38 **SECTION 1.** The North Carolina General Assembly encourages NASCAR
39 to retain the two Winston Cup Series races at North Carolina Speedway and the three
40 Winston Cup Series races at Lowe's Motor Speedway.

41 **SECTION 2.** The North Carolina General Assembly commemorates the
42 pioneers of NASCAR, such as the late Lee Petty and the late Dale Earnhardt.

43 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
44 resolution to the governing body and officers of NASCAR.

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SECTION 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.