



# MEMORABLE MEMO

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
1987 SESSION  
RATIFIED BILL

CHAPTER 480  
SENATE BILL 115

AN ACT TO MAKE ENGLISH THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

"§ 145-11. **State language.**—(a) Purpose. English is the common language of the people of the United States of America and the State of North Carolina. This section is intended to preserve, protect and strengthen the English language, and not to supersede any of the rights guaranteed to the people by the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of North Carolina.  
(b) English as the Official Language of North Carolina. English is the official language of the State of North Carolina."

Sec. 2. This act is effective upon ratification.  
In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 25th day of June, 1987.

ROBERT B. JORDAN III  
Robert B. Jordan III  
President of the Senate

LISTON B. RAMSEY  
Liston B. Ramsey  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

*Here's our favorite bill of the 1987 General Assembly, SB 115, ratified June 25, 1987, that declares English to be the "Official Language of North Carolina." We've long had our doubts, however, about which language was the official language of the General Assembly of North Carolina. We enclose a few violations of the law from the 1987 session just to prove the point:*

"Being truly bilingual is fine as long as one of those linguals happens to be English." — Sen. Franklin L. Block (D-New Hanover), and sponsor of the English language bill.

"I don't recall realizing that." — Rep. Foyle Hightower (D-Anson).

"It's a food that babies can survive on without any other food. It's the only food I know of that can be done like that." — Rep. Foyle Hightower (D-Anson), on legislation to make milk the official state beverage.

"I preference my remarks by saying..." — Rep. Gerald Anderson (D-Craven).

"Quote me if I'm wrong, but..." — Rep. Gerald Anderson (D-Craven).

"Allergy bloom..." — Rep. Gerald Anderson (D-Craven), during House committee debate on what to do about algae bloom, a growth in state waterways.

"I do have some information that could sort of revile that question." — Rep. Charles F. "Monroe" Buchanan (R-Mitchell), during debate on a manufactured housing bill.

"Gradiations of misbehavior" and "variegations of statutes" ... — Rep. John H. Kerr III (D-Wayne).

"Edgecombe and Nashcombe counties ..." — Sen. Wanda H. Hunt (D-Moore), referring to Edgecombe and Nash counties.