

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 47th Legislature (2000)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION HCR1069

By: Hutchison of the House

and

Littlefield of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the impact of major festivals and events on local and state economies; stating legislative intent concerning the creation of the American Heritage Music Festival and technical assistance related thereto; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the tourism industry generates over \$3.5 billion in the State of Oklahoma annually, not including over \$1 billion spent on recreation; and

WHEREAS, over 68,000 jobs in Oklahoma are tourism related, making this industry the second largest employer in the state and generating a \$1.3 billion payroll; and

WHEREAS, even with phenomenal growth in recent years, the tourism market is still in its infancy, with many long strides needed before this industry realizes its potential in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, tourism enterprises are among the leading small business employers and are an excellent example of diversification in the Oklahoma economy; and

WHEREAS, major events and festivals provide significant economic impact on both state and local economies and such events and festivals provide a catalyst for further travel and patronage of the many tourism facilities, state and local parks and local restaurants and hotels; and

WHEREAS, there is a tremendous public interest in clogging and related dancing in Oklahoma and surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, *The Double Toe Times*, a cloggers' magazine, lists almost 600 dance groups in all 50 of the United States, and in Germany, Canada, Belgium and Australia; and

WHEREAS, the public interest in American Heritage Music forms, such as bluegrass, Cajun music, old-time fiddle, western swing, country music, blues, ragtime, and honky-tonk is great; and

WHEREAS, an American Heritage Music Festival clogging contest in Oklahoma will be sanctioned by the World Championship Clogging Contest at the Stompin' Grounds in Maggie Valley, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, winners of the Oklahoma regional clogging contest will be eligible to compete in the World Championship Clogging Competition at Maggie Valley.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT proper development and administration of major festivals are major steps that the State of Oklahoma can make toward tourism-related economic development.

THAT development in Oklahoma of a major regional clogging competition and American Heritage Music Festival would enhance tourism and promote Oklahoma as a tourist destination.

THAT it is the intent of the Legislature that the Planning and Development Division of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department provide, within resources available, technical assistance and help coordinate the resources of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and other agencies and the private sector to develop, promote and perform the tasks necessary to create the American Heritage Music Festival.

THAT in or around July 2001, the first American Heritage Music Festival shall be held in Grove, Oklahoma.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Director of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, the Governor, and the Lieutenant Governor.

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