



HOUSE BILL 2614

By Jones R

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3;
Title 4; Title 8 and Title 9, relative to state
government.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-22-101, is amended by deleting the
section.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

Bulso
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2654*

House Bill No. 2614

by deleting all language after the caption and substituting:

WHEREAS, the Rhododendron Festival, which is celebrating its eightieth anniversary this spring, and the Fall-O-Dendron Festival are held in beautiful Roan Mountain, which is famous for its stunning beauty and being home to the world's largest natural Catawba Rhododendron gardens; and

WHEREAS, for generations, the Rhododendron Festival has been an important tradition that reflects the heritage, culture, and community history and spirit of Roan Mountain, which traces its roots back to the Overmountain Men, who famously crossed Roan Mountain on their way to victory at the Battle of Kings Mountain during the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, the Roan Mountain Citizens Club was established to promote the beauty and history of Roan Mountain; and

WHEREAS, the next year, the Roan Mountain Citizens Club developed and held the first Rhododendron Festival atop Roan Mountain, reflecting that "the people go where the Rhododendron grows"; and

WHEREAS, the Roan Mountain Citizens Club, after seeing the overwhelming popularity and attendance at the spring festival, launched the Fall-O-Dendron Festival in October of each year, featuring arts, crafts, vendors, music in the amphitheater, and demonstrations and crafts reflecting the Appalachian lifestyle and history of days gone by; and

WHEREAS, the Roan Mountain Rhododendron and the Fall-O-Dendron festivals serve as major economic drivers for the Roan Mountain community and for Carter County as a whole, bringing thousands of visitors from across the region and around the world; and

WHEREAS, revenue from the festivals is used to support scholarships for Johnson County students preparing for college, local schools, volunteer fire departments, and the beautification of the Roan Mountain community; and

WHEREAS, true Tennessee treasures, the Rhododendron and Fall-O-Dendron festivals are richly deserving of special recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

The Rhododendron and the Fall-O-Dendron festivals of Roan Mountain are designated the official Rhododendron and Fall-O-Dendron festivals of Tennessee in recognition of such festivals' contributions to the preservation of the heritage, history, and beautiful landscapes of this state.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.