

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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SENATE DRS15123-LD-49 (03/02)

Short Title: Two Additions to State Parks System. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Dalton, and Rand.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ADDITION OF NEW STATE PARKS AT
3 CARVERS CREEK AND IN THE HICKORY NUT GORGE/CHIMNEY ROCK
4 AREA TO THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM.

5 Whereas, Section 5 of Article XIV of the North Carolina Constitution states
6 that it shall be a proper function of the State of North Carolina to acquire and preserve
7 park, recreational, and scenic areas and, in every other appropriate way, to preserve as a
8 part of the common heritage of this State its open lands and places of beauty; and

9 Whereas, the General Assembly enacted the State Parks Act in 1987,
10 declaring that the State of North Carolina offers unique archaeological, geological,
11 biological, scenic, and recreational resources, and that such resources are part of the
12 heritage of the people of the State to be preserved and managed by those people for their
13 use and for the use of their visitors and descendants; and

14 Whereas, Carvers Creek and surrounding lands in Cumberland County
15 represents an excellent example of the natural features of the Sandhills Region of North
16 Carolina, with rolling hills, ravines, and narrow stream bottoms; and

17 Whereas, the Carvers Creek site includes endangered red-cockaded
18 woodpeckers, rare plants, high quality longleaf pine forests, wetlands, and other natural
19 communities characteristic of the Sandhills; and

20 Whereas, the Carvers Creek site has been found to possess biological, scenic,
21 and recreational resources of statewide significance; and

22 Whereas, the Hickory Nut Gorge/Chimney Rock area in and near western
23 Rutherford County contains spectacular cliffs, rugged mountains, fissure caves,
24 waterfalls, and unusually rich soils that support at least 36 rare plant species and 14 rare
25 animals; and

26 Whereas, the Hickory Nut Gorge/Chimney Rock area is one of the major
27 centers of biodiversity in North Carolina, and is also of great geological interest; and

1 Whereas, the Hickory Nut Gorge/Chimney Rock area has been found to
2 possess biological, geological, scenic, and recreational resources of statewide
3 significance; Now, therefore,

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly authorizes the Department of
6 Environment and Natural Resources to add Carvers Creek State Park to the State Parks
7 System as provided in G.S. 113-44.14(b).

8 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly authorizes the Department of
9 Environment and Natural Resources to add a State Park unit located in the Hickory Nut
10 Gorge/Chimney Rock area to the State Parks System as provided in G.S. 113-44.14(b).

11 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.