

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE DRH60298-RI-15 (03/02)

Short Title: Authorize Deep River State Trail. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Brubaker and Insko (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ADDITION OF DEEP RIVER STATE TRAIL TO
2 THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM.
3

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

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

13 Whereas, the General Assembly enacted the North Carolina Trails System
14 Act in 1973, declaring that trails should be established in natural, scenic areas of the
15 State, and in and near urban areas, in order to promote public access to, travel within,
16 and enjoyment and appreciation of the outdoor, natural, and remote areas of the State;
17 and

18 Whereas, the State Trails Act provides that trails may be designated and
19 managed as units of the State Parks System; and

20 Whereas, the Deep River in Randolph, Moore, Lee, and Chatham Counties is
21 considered nationally significant for its biological resources, including globally rare
22 species of fish and mussels; and

23 Whereas, the Deep River is used extensively by paddlers and fishermen, and
24 has considerable potential to support recreational uses and to attract tourism to the
25 four-county area; Now, therefore,

26 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

1 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly authorizes the Department of
2 Environment and Natural Resources to add Deep River State Trail to the State Parks
3 System as provided in G.S. 113-44.14(b). The Department may acquire and manage
4 lands and easements for this purpose, and shall promote, encourage, and facilitate the
5 establishment of connecting trail segments by other federal, State, local, and private
6 landowners. On segments of the Deep River State Trail that cross property controlled by
7 agencies or owners other than the Division of Parks and Recreation, the laws, rules, and
8 policies of those agencies or owners shall govern the use of the property.

9 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.