

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE DRH80019-RI-4 (01/27)

Short Title: Authorize Grandfather Mtn. as State Park. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Frye, Starnes, and Tarleton (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ADDITION OF GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN STATE
3 PARK TO THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM.

4 Whereas, Section 5 of Article XIV of the North Carolina Constitution states that it
5 shall be a proper function of the State of North Carolina to acquire and preserve park,
6 recreational, and scenic areas and, in every other appropriate way, to preserve as a part of the
7 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, declaring that
9 the State of North Carolina offers unique archaeological, geological, biological, scenic, and
10 recreational resources, and that such resources are part of the heritage of the people of the State
11 to be preserved and managed by those people for their use and for the use of their visitors and
12 descendants; and

13 Whereas, Grandfather Mountain in Watauga, Avery, and Caldwell Counties, is
14 known to be nationally significant for its excellent examples of many rare high elevation
15 natural communities and an exemplary assemblage of rare plant and animal species; and

16 Whereas, Grandfather Mountain is an internationally recognized terrestrial
17 ecosystem and is therefore designated as a Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations
18 Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Programme on Man and the Biosphere; and

19 Whereas, Grandfather Mountain is one of the most biologically diverse and
20 significant sites in the Southern Appalachian region; and

21 Whereas, rare species found at Grandfather Mountain include Spreading avens,
22 Roan Mountain bluet, Heller's blazing star, Blue Ridge goldenrod, Virginia big-eared bat,
23 Carolina northern flying squirrel, the Spruce-fir moss spider, and many others; and

24 Whereas, Grandfather Mountain is also one of North Carolina's most important
25 scenic landmarks and offers outstanding opportunities for wilderness recreation; and

26 Whereas, Grandfather Mountain has been found to possess geological, biological,
27 and scenic resources of statewide significance; Now, therefore,
28 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

29 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly authorizes the Department of Environment
30 and Natural Resources to add Grandfather Mountain State Park to the State Parks System as
31 provided in G.S. 113-44.14(b).

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

