

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE BILL 1574*
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/1/04**

Short Title: State Parks System Add. & Study.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 20, 2004

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ADDITION OF THE LOWER HAW RIVER STATE
3 NATURAL AREA TO THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM, AS RECOMMENDED BY
4 THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION, AND TO DIRECT THE
5 DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
6 ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO STUDY THE
7 FEASIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF ESTABLISHING A STATE
8 RECREATION AREA AT BLEWETT FALLS LAKE.

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

14 Whereas, the 1987 General Assembly enacted the State Parks Act, which
15 declares that the State of North Carolina offers unique archaeological, geologic,
16 biological, scenic, and recreational resources, and that these resources are part of the
17 heritage of the people of the State, which should be preserved and managed by the
18 people for their use and for the use of their visitors and descendants; and

19 Whereas, the Lower Haw River in Chatham County is considered nationally
20 significant for its biological resources, including several rare species and possesses
21 biological, scenic, and recreational resources of statewide significance; and

22 Whereas, the Division of Parks and Recreation of the Department of
23 Environment and Natural Resources has identified the Lower Pee Dee, which includes
24 Blewett Falls Lake, as the highest ranked candidate for establishment of a State
25 Recreation Area; Now, therefore,

26 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

27 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly authorizes the Department of
28 Environment and Natural Resources to add the Lower Haw River State Natural Area to
29 the State Parks System as provided by G.S. 113-44.14(b).

1 **SECTION 2.** The Division of Parks and Recreation of the Department of
2 Environment and Natural Resources shall study the feasibility and the desirability of
3 acquiring land and establishing a State Recreation Area at Blewett Falls Lake. The
4 study shall include estimates of the cost of developing the proposed recreation area.
5 The Division shall report its findings and recommendations, including any legislative
6 proposals, to the Environmental Review Commission on or before 1 December 2005.

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