

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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HOUSE BILL 2127*
Senate Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources Committee Substitute
Adopted 6/29/06

Short Title: State Parks System Additions.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 18, 2006

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ADDITION OF MOUNTAIN BOG STATE
3 NATURAL AREA AND SANDY RUN SAVANNAS STATE NATURAL AREA
4 TO THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM, AND TO DIRECT THE DIVISION OF
5 PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
6 AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY AND
7 DESIRABILITY OF ESTABLISHING A STATE PARK AT CABIN LAKE.

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

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

17 Whereas, mountain bogs are wetlands that support a variety of rare and
18 unique species. Because of their location on small flat sites in the mountains, bogs are
19 highly vulnerable to damage from clearing, grading, and development. Very few of
20 North Carolina's mountain bogs remain intact, and they are one of the State's most
21 endangered habitats; and

22 Whereas, Mountain Bog State Natural Area would be comprised of two
23 mountain bogs, Sugar Mountain Bog and Pineola Bog; and

24 Whereas, rare species found at one or both of the bogs include the bog turtle,
25 bog rose, bog fern, cranberry, gray's lily, large purple-fringed orchid, purple-leaf
26 willowherb, four-toed salamander, and Baltimore checkerspot; and

27 Whereas, the Mountain Bog site has been found to possess biological
28 resources of statewide significance; and

1 Whereas, savannas are renowned for extraordinary plant diversity and high
2 numbers of rare species. Savannas are an important component of the State's natural
3 landscape, but are poorly represented in the existing State Parks System; and

4 Whereas, the Sandy Run Savannas State Natural Area would be comprised of
5 a cluster of nationally significant savannas along the border of Pender and Onslow
6 Counties; and

7 Whereas, the Sandy Run Savannas site is important as a military buffer and is
8 strategically located as a hub surrounded by Camp Lejeune, Holly Shelter Game Land,
9 and Angola Bay Game Land; and

10 Whereas, the Sandy Run Savannas site contains rare species that include
11 Venus flytrap, golden sedge, red-cockaded woodpecker, Cooley's meadowrue, yellow
12 fringeless orchid, Carolina goldenrod, and rough-leaf loosestrife; and

13 Whereas, the Sandy Run Savannas site has been found to possess biological
14 resources of statewide significance; and

15 Whereas, Cabin Lake possesses significant scenic and recreational resources;
16 Now, therefore,

17 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

18 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly authorizes the Department of
19 Environment and Natural Resources to add Mountain Bog State Natural Area to the
20 State Parks System as provided in G.S. 113-44.14(b).

21 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly authorizes the Department of
22 Environment and Natural Resources to add Sandy Run Savannas State Natural Area to
23 the State Parks System as provided in G.S. 113-44.14(b).

24 **SECTION 3.** The Division of Parks and Recreation of the Department of
25 Environment and Natural Resources shall study the feasibility and the desirability of
26 acquiring land and establishing a State Park at Cabin Lake. The study shall include
27 estimates of the cost of developing the proposed park. The Division shall report its
28 findings and recommendations, including any legislative proposals, to the
29 Environmental Review Commission on or before 15 January 2007.

30 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.