

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2005**

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**HOUSE DRH60656-RIz-13\* (04/04)**

Short Title: State Parks System Additions. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Justice, Grady, and Harrison (Primary Sponsors).

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Referred to:

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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, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE  
5 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION.

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

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

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

20       Whereas, Mountain Bog State Natural Area would be comprised of two  
21 mountain bogs, Sugar Mountain Bog and Pineola Bog.

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

25       Whereas, the Mountain Bog site has been found to possess biological  
26 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; Now, therefore,

15 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

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

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