

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

H.B. 169
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10087-LG-30

Short Title: Loggerhead Turtle/State Saltwater Reptile. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Iler, C. Smith, and McElraft (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ADOPT THE LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE AS THE OFFICIAL
3 SALTWATER REPTILE OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.
4 Whereas, the loggerhead sea turtle is the most common sea turtle on the coast of North
5 Carolina; and
6 Whereas, loggerhead sea turtles can live to over 50 years, growing up to four feet in
7 length and weighing over 250 pounds; and
8 Whereas, loggerhead sea turtles got their name because their heads resembled logs;
9 and
10 Whereas, the diets of loggerhead sea turtles consist of horseshoe crabs, conchs,
11 jellyfish, and seaweed; and
12 Whereas, loggerhead sea turtles lay hundreds of eggs on the southern beaches of
13 North Carolina; and
14 Whereas, a female loggerhead sea turtle can lay as many as 100 eggs with hatchlings
15 appearing within 45-75 days; and
16 Whereas, the State of North Carolina does not have an official saltwater reptile; Now,
17 therefore,
18 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
19 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
20 section to read:
21 **"§ 145-52. State saltwater reptile.**
22 **The loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) is adopted as the official saltwater reptile of the**
23 **State of North Carolina.**
24 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

