

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL DRS15254-LG-56

Short Title: Jackson County/Trout Capital of NC. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator J. Davis (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT ADOPTING JACKSON COUNTY AS THE TROUT CAPITAL OF THE STATE OF  
3 NORTH CAROLINA.

4 Whereas, Jackson County is home to the nation's first fly fishing trail with 15  
5 designated public spaces for fly fishing mapping prime spots to catch brown, rainbow, and brook  
6 trout in the crystal clear streams of Jackson County; and

7 Whereas, Jackson County has the longest contiguous stretch of waters that have been  
8 designated by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission as North Carolina Mountain  
9 Heritage Trout Waters, comprised of three cities of the 13 in the State with the distinction, making  
10 up 25% of the State's designated waters, with numerous unnamed waters also comprising the  
11 richest, most diverse, productive trout fisheries in North Carolina; and

12 Whereas, the waters of Jackson County are excellent resources for trout fishing and  
13 other enjoyable aquatic pastimes, with over 4,600 miles of beautiful water, and are annually  
14 stocked with 92,800 fish each year, the most of any county in North Carolina; and

15 Whereas, Jackson County is the location for one of the three largest rainbow trout  
16 ever caught and recorded in North Carolina; and

17 Whereas, people from around the country travel to fish the Tuckasegee River in  
18 Jackson County, which is the largest body of water in the county, flowing some 40 miles from  
19 southeast to northwest; and

20 Whereas, the Tuckasegee River's splendid all-season tailwater fishery has the  
21 conditions which provide a superior habitat for invertebrate and other trout prey and is regularly  
22 stocked with brown, rainbow, and brook trout; and

23 Whereas, the all-season fishing available in the Tuckasegee River and on the Qualla  
24 Boundary provides a varied alternative from other fisheries in North Carolina, with winter fishing  
25 providing the opportunity for bigger catches during colder months; and

26 Whereas, the miles of streams in Jackson County support the area's only native  
27 species, the eastern brook trout, which has been preserved, protected, and restored on public lands  
28 by the Department of Natural Resources, the United States Forest Service, and by  
29 conservation-minded groups like Trout Unlimited and Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture; and

30 Whereas, a significant portion of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation resides in  
31 Jackson County, which is the home of the famous trophy trout waters of the Raven Fork River  
32 featured on the WNC Fly Fishing Trail; and

33 Whereas, Jackson County is home to several trout ponds and farms, and many local  
34 restaurants proudly feature trout on their menus, in a gracious and friendly community  
35 environment; and



1           Whereas, Jackson County is blessed with significant aquatic waters for fishing,  
2 boating, and outdoor adventure, which encourages second home destinations, retirees, and  
3 outdoor enthusiasts to the lovely State of North Carolina; Now, therefore,  
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5           **SECTION 1.** Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
6 section to read:

7 **"§ 145-52. Official trout capital of the State of North Carolina.**

8           Jackson County is adopted as the official trout capital of the State of North Carolina."

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