



HOUSE BILL 360: Authorize Dan River State Trail.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 22, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. K. Hall, Carter	Prepared by:	Kellette Wade
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 360 would authorize the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (Department) to add the Dan River Trail to the State Parks System.*

CURRENT LAW: The State Parks Act provides that a trail may be added to the State Parks System by the Department upon authorization by an act of the General Assembly. All additions are required to be accompanied by adequate authorization and appropriations for land acquisition, development, and operations.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 360 would authorize the Department to add the Dan River Trail to the State Parks System as a State Trail.

The use of any segment of the trail crossing property not owned by the Department's Division of Parks and Recreation would be governed by the laws, rules, and policies established by that segment's owner.

This addition would be exempt from having to be accompanied by adequate appropriations for land acquisition, development, and operations. Lands needed to complete the trail would be acquired either by donations to the State or by using existing funds in the Land and Water Fund, the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and other available sources of funding.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would be effective when it becomes law.

BACKGROUND: The Dan River is important to North Carolina, flowing 214 miles through Virginia and North Carolina, crossing the state line 8 times. Major tributaries of the Dan River are the Mayo, Smith, Sandy, Banister, and Hyco rivers. The River has long supported a diverse abundance of life, including rare and endangered plants, animals, and aquatic organisms. This Trail would join the other North Carolina state trails that follow the Deep River, French Broad River, Yadkin River, and Wilderness Gateway state trails.

This background information was provided by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

**Bill Patterson, Staff Attorney for the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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