



HOUSE BILL 124: Authorize Haw River State Trail.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House State Government. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 23, 2023
Introduced by:	Reps. Ross, Riddell	Prepared by:	Kellette Wade
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 124 would authorize the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to add the Haw River Trail to the State Parks System as a State trail.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S100, as introduced by Sen. Galey, and sent by regular message to the House on March 22, 2023.]

CURRENT LAW: The State Parks Act provides that State trails, as components of the State Parks System, may be established by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (Department) upon authorization by an act of the General Assembly.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 2 of the bill would authorize the Department to add the Haw River Trail in Rockingham, Guilford, Alamance, Orange, and Chatham Counties, between Haw River State Park and Jordan Lake State Recreation Area, to the State Parks System as a State trail.

Section 3 of the bill would direct the Department to support, encourage, and facilitate the establishment of trail segments on State park lands and on lands of other federal, State, local, and private landowners. On segments of the trail that cross property controlled by agencies and owners other than the Department's Division of Parks and Recreation, the laws, rules, and policies of those agencies or owners shall govern the use of the property.

Section 4 of the bill provides that 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 could be acquired by donations to the State or by using existing funds in the Land and Water Fund, the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, the Complete the Trails 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.

Staff Attorney Aaron McGlothlin substantially contributed to this summary.

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