

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 635*
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/23/97

Short Title: Addition to State Parks System.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 26, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ADDITION TO THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM OF
2 CERTAIN LANDS LOCATED IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY ADJACENT TO
3 JOCASSEE LAKE.
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5 Whereas, Section 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution of North Carolina states
6 that it shall be a proper function of the State of North Carolina to acquire and preserve
7 park, recreational, and scenic areas and, in every other appropriate way, to preserve as a
8 part of the common heritage of this State its open lands and places of beauty; and

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

14 Whereas, lands currently owned by Duke Power Company in Transylvania
15 County adjacent to Jocassee Lake contain examples of outstanding scenic beauty, harbor
16 many rare species and natural communities that are unique and irreplaceable, and have
17 been found to possess geological, biological, scenic, and recreational resources of
18 statewide or even nationwide significance; Now, therefore,

19 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

1 Section 1. The General Assembly authorizes the Department of Environment,
2 Health, and Natural Resources to add lands currently owned by Duke Power Company in
3 Transylvania County adjacent to Jocassee Lake to the State Parks System, as provided in
4 G.S. 113-44.14(b). In determining which particular lands to add to the State Parks
5 System, the Secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources
6 shall consult with the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners. During this
7 planning process, the Department shall work cooperatively with the County Board of
8 Commissioners to identify the most significant properties traditionally available for
9 multiple uses, including hunting. These properties will not be included in the proposed
10 State Park if a viable State Park unit with manageable boundaries may otherwise be
11 established.

12 Section 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1997.