

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

**H.B. 536**  
**Mar 29, 2023**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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HOUSE BILL DRH40281-LGy-108A

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

Sponsors: Representative Iler.

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 found along the  
5 coast of North Carolina; and  
6 Whereas, loggerhead sea turtles can live up to 50 years, growing over three 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 whelks, and other mollusks; and  
12 Whereas, female loggerhead sea turtles dig hundreds of nests on the beaches of North  
13 Carolina; and  
14 Whereas, a female loggerhead sea turtle can lay 100 or more eggs with hatchlings  
15 appearing in about 60 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.



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