

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 414  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/4/17  
PROPOSED SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H414-PCS30491-RN-27

Short Title: Official Fly Fishing Museum/Outdoor Festival.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 22, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT DESIGNATING SWAIN COUNTY AS THE HOME TO THE FLY FISHING  
MUSEUM OF THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS AND THE NORTH CAROLINA  
OUTDOOR FESTIVAL HELD IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY AS THE OFFICIAL  
NORTH CAROLINA OUTDOOR FESTIVAL.

Whereas, Swain County is home to hundreds of miles of wild fish streams and scores  
of different streams, ranging from those accessible with a short walk to others that are more  
remote; and

Whereas, Swain County holds 52% of the entire acreage of the Great Smoky  
Mountains National Park and also holds over several hundred miles of trout fishing within the  
National Park; and

Whereas, Swain County holds within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park the  
legendary streams of both Hazel Creek and Deep Creek and the complete length of the  
Oconaluftee River and its tributaries; and

Whereas, it is generally acknowledged that for stream-bred fish the streams of the  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park provide a scenic and wild destination unmatched in the  
eastern United States; and

Whereas, virtually all of Swain County's wild fish waters are available to the general  
public due to being located in the Nantahala National Forest or the Great Smoky Mountains  
National Park; and

Whereas, the lower end of the Nantahala River and the Nantahala Gorge are entirely  
in Swain County and enjoy the rare attribute of being wadeable during times of power generation  
as well as when upstream dam gates are shut and also enjoy year-round levels of water; and

Whereas, the tailwaters of the Nantahala River and the Nantahala Gorge are entirely  
in Swain County and hold a substantial population of wild fish, even though the river carries a  
"hatchery supported" designation; and

Whereas, the tailwaters of the Nantahala River and the Nantahala Gorge are entirely  
in Swain County and were named in Trout Unlimited's list of America's 100 greatest trout  
streams; and

Whereas, the tribal waters of the Cherokee Reservation's famed fishing are in Swain  
County and offer both catch-and-release trophy options as well as catch-and-keep fishing; and

Whereas, Swain County offers over two miles of delayed harvest waters on the  
Tuckasegee River readily accessible via wading, bank fishing, boating, and fishing piers; and



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1           Whereas, Swain County has hosted two top fly fishing events, the 2011 U.S. National  
2 Fly Fishing Championship and the 2012 U.S. Youth National Fly Fishing Championship, and is  
3 hosting the upcoming 2017 U.S. Youth National Fly Fishing Championship; and

4           Whereas, Swain County has 42,550 stocked trout over 31.2 miles of stream, or 1,364  
5 trout per mile; and

6           Whereas, Swain County holds two State record fish; the brook trout State record was  
7 caught on Ravens Fork and the brown trout State record was caught on the Nantahala River; and

8           Whereas, Swain County is comprised of 541 square miles with 13 square miles of  
9 water that equal 2.3% of the county overall with the vast majority of those streams being  
10 accessible to fishing; and

11           Whereas, Swain County holds four rivers, including the Nantahala, Tuckasegee, Little  
12 Tennessee, and Oconaluftee, all easily accessible for fishing and stocked; and

13           Whereas, Swain County is home to Fontana Lake, with over 900 miles of shoreline  
14 and over 13 varieties of fish, including brown and rainbow trout, small- and large-mouth bass,  
15 muskie, walleye, yellow perch, and others; and

16           Whereas, Swain County is home to Cheoah Lake, which has over six varieties of fish;  
17 and

18           Whereas, the fishing industry brings a \$174 million economic impact to Western  
19 North Carolina; and

20           Whereas, Swain County offers a remarkable variety of aquatic waters for outdoor  
21 recreation, including fishing, boating, kayaking, and more, which encourages destination  
22 tourism, second-home buyers, and retirees to the fair State of North Carolina; and

23           Whereas, Swain County is the home of the Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern  
24 Appalachians, which is devoted to the history and teaching of the art of fly fishing and nationally  
25 recognized as being the top museum of its type; and

26           Whereas, Montgomery County and the Uwharrie National Park are located within a  
27 two-hour or less drive of 7.6 million people, providing a central location for outdoor events; and

28           Whereas, Army Special Forces from Fort Bragg train in off-road maneuvers at the  
29 Uwharrie National Forest; and

30           Whereas, Montgomery County is the location of the North Carolina Outdoor Festival,  
31 an annual fall festival that promotes the natural wonders of the Uwharrie National Forest and the  
32 enhanced and sustainable use of the lakes, trails, streams, and the mountains of Montgomery  
33 County and the surrounding region; and

34           Whereas, the 2018 North Carolina Outdoor Festival will be held over 10 days and is  
35 being promoted as the "10 Days of Uwharrie;" and

36           Whereas, visitors of the North Carolina Outdoor Festival can enjoy many outdoor  
37 activities that include paddling, disc golf, boating, rock hounding, camping, orienteering,  
38 horseback riding, a 40-mile supported hike of the Uwharrie trails, a 100-mile trail run known as  
39 Uwharrie 100, and various competitions such as mountain biking, kayaking, and fishing; and

40           Whereas, the North Carolina Outdoor Festival also provides musical acts, arts and  
41 crafts, antiques, food trucks, pottery demonstrations, vendors, and various children's events, such  
42 as scavenger hunts, games, and face painting; and

43           Whereas, there will also be an expo for State manufacturers to showcase their outdoor  
44 recreational products; and

45           Whereas, the North Carolina Outdoor Festival is a family friendly event and is  
46 expected to have an attendance of over 30,000 people from all over the country; and

47           Whereas, the North Carolina Outdoor Festival should be adopted as the official  
48 outdoor festival of the State of North Carolina; Now, therefore,

49 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

1 **"§ 145-49. State Fly Fishing Museum.**

2 Swain County is designated as the home of the Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern  
3 Appalachians, which is located in Bryson City in the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains."

4 **SECTION 2.** Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
5 section to read:

6 **"§ 145-50. North Carolina Outdoor Festival.**

7 The North Carolina Outdoor Festival held in Montgomery County is adopted as the official  
8 outdoor festival of the State of North Carolina."

9 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.