

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

H.B. 647
Apr 9, 2019
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40287-LG-117

Short Title: Adopt Haywood Co. Elk Capital of NC. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Queen and Presnell (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT ADOPTING HAYWOOD COUNTY AS THE ELK CAPITAL OF THE STATE OF
3 NORTH CAROLINA.

4 Whereas, due to overhunting and habitat loss in the mid-1800s, the elk population
5 was drastically reduced in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and

6 Whereas, in 2001, an initial 52 elk were released in Cataloochee Valley, a section of
7 the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, located in Haywood County as an experimental
8 project to reintroduce elk in the area; and

9 Whereas, reintroducing the elk has been a resounding success in Haywood County,
10 resulting in a herd that has grown to 200 elk; and

11 Whereas, the herd can be spotted in Cataloochee Valley, Maggie Valley, and other
12 parts of Haywood County; and

13 Whereas, the elk project has played a large role in tourism to Haywood County; and

14 Whereas, local restaurants and shops in Haywood County proudly post pictures of the
15 elk in front of their establishments and on social media to attract more customers; and

16 Whereas, the elk is a great part of Haywood County's brand and is used heavily in its
17 logo and marketing; and

18 Whereas, Haywood County is developing the Smoky Mountain Elk Festival for
19 September 2019 to celebrate the reintroduction of the elk and the conservation and habitat of the
20 elk; and

21 Whereas, Haywood County should be adopted as the official elk capital of the State
22 of North Carolina; Now, therefore,

23 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

26 "**§ 145-52. State elk capital.**

27 Haywood County is adopted as the official elk capital of the State of North Carolina."

28 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

