

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

**H.B. 169**  
**Feb 25, 2019**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

H

D

**HOUSE BILL DRH10087-LG-30**

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

Sponsors: Representatives Iler, C. Smith, and McElraft (Primary Sponsors).

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 on the coast of North  
5 Carolina; and  
6 Whereas, loggerhead sea turtles can live to over 50 years, growing up to four 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 jellyfish, and seaweed; and  
12 Whereas, loggerhead sea turtles lay hundreds of eggs on the southern beaches of  
13 North Carolina; and  
14 Whereas, a female loggerhead sea turtle can lay as many as 100 eggs with hatchlings  
15 appearing within 45-75 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.

