

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 281
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40163-LG-65

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.

