

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 671
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40389-LG-17

Short Title: Change State Mammal to Black Bear. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Hanig.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REPLACE THE GRAY SQUIRREL WITH THE BLACK BEAR AS THE
3 OFFICIAL STATE MAMMAL.

4 Whereas, Brandon Marshall was a proud resident of Hyde County, North Carolina,
5 who enjoyed all the natural beauty it offered and who tragically lost his life on January 25, 2021;
6 and

7 Whereas, Brandon Marshall dedicated significant time to the conservation efforts of
8 North Carolina, including working as the chapter president of Ducks Unlimited, assisting in the
9 Wetlands Reserve Program, aiding the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and
10 working with the North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program; and

11 Whereas, Brandon Marshall respected North Carolina's black bears and sought to
12 educate and enhance everyone's knowledge of these amazing creatures, promoting safe and
13 sustainable hunting practices for all; and

14 Whereas, in honor of Brandon Marshall and in recognition of the importance and
15 majesty of North Carolina's black bears, it is fitting to designate the black bear the official
16 mammal of the State of North Carolina; Now, therefore,
17 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

18 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 145-5 reads as rewritten:
19 "**§ 145-5. State mammal.**

20 The ~~gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)~~ is hereby black bear (*Ursus americanus*) is adopted
21 as the official State mammal of the State of North Carolina."

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

