

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

H

1

HOUSE BILL 169

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

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

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: State and Local Government, if favorable, Environment, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

February 26, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ADOPT THE LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE AS THE OFFICIAL  
SALTWATER REPTILE OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the loggerhead sea turtle is the most common sea turtle on the coast of North Carolina; and

Whereas, loggerhead sea turtles can live to over 50 years, growing up to four feet in length and weighing over 250 pounds; and

Whereas, loggerhead sea turtles got their name because their heads resembled logs; and

Whereas, the diets of loggerhead sea turtles consist of horseshoe crabs, conchs, jellyfish, and seaweed; and

Whereas, loggerhead sea turtles lay hundreds of eggs on the southern beaches of North Carolina; and

Whereas, a female loggerhead sea turtle can lay as many as 100 eggs with hatchlings appearing within 45-75 days; and

Whereas, the State of North Carolina does not have an official saltwater reptile; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

**"§ 145-52. State saltwater reptile.**

The loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) is adopted as the official saltwater reptile of the State of North Carolina."

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

