



# HOUSE BILL 161: Adopt State Cat

2015-2016 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	Wildlife Resources, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	April 27, 2015
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Richardson, Glazier	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Chris Saunders Committee Counsel
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		

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**SUMMARY:** *House Bill 161 would adopt the bobcat as the official State cat of North Carolina.*

**BACKGROUND:** North Carolina currently does not have an official State cat. The State has adopted 12 animals as State symbols, ranging from the State bird (the cardinal) to the State freshwater trout (the Southern Appalachian strain of brook trout) and the State marsupial (the Virginia opossum). Animals that are designated as State symbols do not receive any special protections – the recognition is purely symbolic.

The bobcat is the only wild cat found in North Carolina. The bobcat can be found in all regions of the State. The Wildlife Resources Commission classifies the bobcat as a game species and furbearer, and allows hunting and trapping of bobcats during designated seasons.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 161 would adopt the bobcat as the official cat of the State of North Carolina. Designation of the bobcat as the State cat would not affect any hunting or trapping regulations.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would be effective when it becomes law.

O. Walker Reagan  
Director



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