



# HOUSE BILL 591: Study Roanoke Island Festival Park Governance.

2016-2017 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources	<b>Date:</b>	June 9, 2016
<b>Introduced by:</b>		<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jeff Cherry Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to Second Edition H591-CSMH-22		

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**SUMMARY:** *House Bill 591 would create the Roanoke Island Tourism Coordination Task Force to improve operations of the Roanoke Island Festival Park and the Elizabeth II State Historic Site, and make an unrelated change to the meeting frequency of the Roanoke Island Commission.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The Roanoke Island Commission is the current incarnation of several predecessor state entities created to commemorate the 1987 400th Anniversary of the Roanoke Voyages. It is charged with the "protection, preservation, development, and interpretation of the historical and cultural assets of Roanoke Island" (G.S. 143B-131.1), and, in particular, with the operation of Roanoke Island Festival Park, a 25 acre interactive historic site created to commemorate the Roanoke settlements. The Festival Park includes the home port for the Elizabeth II, a replica of a sixteenth century merchant vessel similar to those that took part in the Roanoke Voyages from 1585 to 1587. The 2014 Appropriations Act reorganized the Roanoke Island Commission transforming it from an independent Commission to an advisory body within the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Festival Park depends on an annual State appropriation (\$523,384 in FY 2015-2016) to support its operations.

The Roanoke Island Historical Association is a quasi-public entity established in 1932 that produces the outdoor historical drama "The Lost Colony". It was placed under State patronage in 1945, but it is not a State agency (G.S. 143B-93). It also receives an annual State appropriation.

**BILL ANALYSIS: Sections 1 and 2** establish the Roanoke Island Tourism Coordination Task Force, composed of representatives of the Roanoke Island Commission ("Commission"), the Roanoke Island Historical Association ("Association"), as well as the Secretary of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, chair of the Dare County Board of Commissioners, and the Supervisor of the National Park Service's operations for Roanoke Island and the Northern Outer Banks.

**Section 3** charges the Task Force with studying the operations and governance of the Commission and the Association to provide for more efficient and cost effective operation of the Roanoke Island Festival Park and the Elizabeth II. The Task Force is given permission to develop a Memorandum of Agreement among the Department, the Commission, and the Association if needed to foster financially sustainable operation of those attractions.

**Section 4** requires the Task Force to report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Ag/NER by March 1, 2017. The Task Force terminates upon filing the report or on March 1, 2017.

**Section 5** removes the statutory requirement that the Roanoke Island Commission meet four times per year.

**Section 6** provides that the bill becomes effective when it becomes law.

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Legislative Drafting  
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