



## HOUSE BILL 74: Adopt Bobcat as State Cat.

2017-2018 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	April 11, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. B. Richardson, Horn, Ager, Gill	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Augustus D. Willis Committee Counsel
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		

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**OVERVIEW:** House bill 74 would adopt the bobcat as the official cat of the State of North Carolina.

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S197, as introduced by Sens. Lowe, McInnis, Smith-Ingram, which is currently in Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate.]

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

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House bill 74 would adopt the bobcat, also known as the wildcat, 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 become effective when it becomes law.

**BACKGROUND:** 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.

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