



SENATE BILL 244: Coastal Crescent Trail/State Parks System.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 20, 2017
Introduced by:	Sen. B. Jackson	Prepared by:	Jennifer McGinnis Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 244 requires the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to add the Coastal Crescent Trail to the Mountains-to-Sea State Park Trail unit of the State Parks System.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to H361, as introduced by Reps. Shepard, McElraft, White, Strickland, which is currently in Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate.]

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 143B-135.54(b) provides that the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (Department) may add a State park, State natural area, State recreation area, State trail, State river, or State lake to the State Parks System upon authorization by an act of the General Assembly.

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill directs the Department to add the Coastal Crescent Trail (CCT) to the Mountains to Sea State Park Trail (MST) unit of the State Parks System. The Department is directed to amend the State Parks System Plan accordingly, no later than October 1, 2017. The bill also provides that the Coastal Crescent route of the Mountains to Sea Trail may include public and private lands, and requires that the Secretary and staff of the Department work cooperatively with the staff and volunteers of Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail to plan and develop the Coastal Crescent route.

BACKGROUND: The CCT runs through Johnston, Sampson, Cumberland, Bladen, Pender, and Onslow counties, and was originally established as a temporary detour around portions of the MST that have not yet been constructed.

Adding the CCT to the State Parks System would make it eligible for the State share of funds from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and for the State Trail portion of the Connect NC Bond funds, and would make the Department's Division of Parks and Recreation responsible for overall planning and coordination for the trail. However, the Division would not be responsible for constructing and operating the entire trail.

More information on the CCT and State Trails generally, prepared by the Division of Parks and Recreation, is attached to this summary.

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

Nicholas Giddings, counsel to House State and Local Government II, substantially contributed to this summary.

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