



SENATE BILL 535: Authorize State Park/Clarify Corps Name.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee: Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date: May 6, 2019
Introduced by: Sens. Edwards, Hise, J. Davis	Prepared by: Kyle Evans
Analysis of: Second Edition	Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 535 would authorize the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) to add Pisgah View State Park to the State Parks System, and would update the General Statutes to reflect a conservation group's name change.*

CURRENT LAW/BILL ANALYSIS:

Pursuant to G.S. 143B-135.54(b), DNCR may add a State park to the State Parks System upon authorization by an act of the General Assembly.

Sections 1 and 2 of the PCS would authorize DNCR to add Pisgah State View Park, in Buncombe and Haywood Counties, to the State Parks System. The State would be permitted to receive donations of appropriate land, or purchase other needed lands for Pisgah View State Park with existing funds from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, the federal Land and Water Trust Fund, or other available sources of funding.

Pursuant to G.S. 143-58.7, State departments, institutions, and agencies are permitted to contract with the "North Carolina Youth Conservation Corps" to perform trail maintenance and related activities in State parks, forest, and other State-owned facilities where the projects provide direct public benefits to the citizens of the State and offer youth and young adults of the State a structured program connected to natural resources that teaches job skills, leadership, community service, and personal responsibility. In early 2019, the group changed its name to "Conservation Corps North Carolina."

Section 3 would update the General Statutes to reflect the "North Carolina Youth Conservation Corps" new name, the "Conservation Corps North Carolina."

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

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Senate Bill 535

Page 2

BACKGROUND: DNCR has provided the following information on the area proposed for the Pisgah State View Park:

Natural lands in southeastern Buncombe County and nearby Haywood County have been identified as Natural Heritage Areas significant to North Carolina. These lands contain a wide variety of landscape types from exposed cliffs on dry ridges to mesic coves and alluvial and wetlands areas.

Elevations span a wide range from 2600 to 4600, with varied topography providing both habitat variety and attractive scenic views. Existing and potential trails could host hiking, camping and horseback riding. The area is easily accessible from Asheville and other population centers.

These lands provide important habitat for species needing large, undeveloped land areas, and offer opportunities for healthy and enjoyable outdoor recreation.

Buncombe County currently contains no state park facilities. It is anticipated that land for the park would be purchased over a span of several years, and park staff would be needed after land is acquired.