



SENATE BILL 610: Authorize Northern Peaks Trail.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 17, 2019
Introduced by:	Sen. Ballard	Prepared by:	Jessica Sammons*
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 610 would authorize the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to add the proposed Northern Peaks State Trail to the State Parks System.*

CURRENT LAW: The State Parks Act provides that a new State trail may be added to the State Parks System by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (Department) upon authorization by an act of the General Assembly. All additions are required to be accompanied by adequate authorization and appropriations for land acquisition, development, and operations.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 610 would authorize the Department to add the Northern Peaks State Trail to the State Parks System as a State Trail. For purposes of this act, the Northern Peaks State Trail is defined as the proposed trail connecting Rivers Park in downtown Boone to the Mount Jefferson State Natural Area in Ashe County.

The use of any segment of the trail crossing property not owned by the Department's Division of Parks and Recreation would be governed by the laws, rules, and polices established by that segment's owner.

This addition would be exempt from having to be accompanied by adequate appropriations for land acquisition, development, and operations. Lands needed to complete the trail would be acquired either by donations to the State or by using existing funds in the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and other available sources of funding.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.

**Bill Patterson, counsel to Senate State & Local Government, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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