



# SENATE BILL 329: Recognizing South Fork Passage State Trail.

2025-2026 General Assembly

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|-----------------------|---|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>Committee:</b>     | Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate | <b>Date:</b>        | April 30, 2025 |
| <b>Introduced by:</b> | Sens. Overcash, Hollo, Alexander          | <b>Prepared by:</b> | Karyl Smith    |
| <b>Analysis of:</b>   | First Edition                             |                     | Staff Attorney |

**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 329 would authorize the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to add the South Fork Passage State Trail to the State Parks System as a State trail.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Part 32 of Article 2 (Department of Natural and Cultural Resources) of Chapter 143B (Executive Organization Act of 1973) of the General Statutes is known as the State Parks Act. The Act provides that State trails, as components of the State Parks System, may be established by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (Department) upon authorization by an act of the General Assembly.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Senate Bill 329 would do the following:

**Section 1** would list various findings concerning the South Fork Passage State Trail (Trail).

**Section 2** would authorize the Department to add the Trail in Catawba, Lincoln, and Gaston Counties to the State Parks System as a State trail. The Trail, which would run alongside the South Fork River, must begin at the confluence of the Henry Fork and Jacob Fork at Jacob Fork Park and end at the boundary between the State and South Carolina on Lake Wylie.

**Section 3** would direct the Department to support, encourage, and facilitate the establishment of trail segments on State Park lands and on lands of other federal, State, local, and private landowners. On segments of the Trail that cross property controlled by agencies or owners other than the Department's Division of Parks and Recreation, the laws, rules, and policies of those agencies or owners shall govern the use of the property.

**Section 4** would exempt the Trail from the requirement that additions be accompanied by adequate appropriations for land acquisition, development, and operations. Lands needed to complete the Trail could be acquired by donations to the State or by using existing funds in the Land and Water Fund, the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, the Complete the Trails Fund, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and other available sources of funding.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill would become effective when it becomes law.

*Aaron McGlothlin, Staff Attorney with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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