

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007**

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HOUSE BILL 1683

Short Title: Official State Bat.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Haire.

Referred to: Wildlife Resources.

April 19, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO ADOPT THE RAFINESQUE'S BIG-EARED BAT AS THE OFFICIAL
BAT OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the Rafinesque's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*) is an indigenous bat to the State of North Carolina and lives in the State year-round; and

Whereas, the Rafinesque's big-eared bat is distinctive in its appearance due to its big ears; and

Whereas, the Rafinesque's big-eared bat helps protect agricultural and silvicultural crops by eating moths and other insects, functioning as a natural pest control for crops and timber resources; and

Whereas, the Rafinesque's big-eared bat resides in trees, caves, and mines near old-growth forests and waterways; and

Whereas, the Rafinesque's big-eared bat resides in small colonies and family units and returns to the same location to raise their young; and

Whereas, the Rafinesque's big-eared bat is listed as a priority on the State's Wildlife Action Plan; and

Whereas, the Rafinesque's big-eared bat deserves to be adopted as the official bat of the State of North Carolina because it is a mysterious and wonderful natural resource; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 145-27. State bat.

The Rafinesque's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*) is adopted as the official bat of the State of North Carolina."

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.