

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 169
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/13/19

Short Title: Loggerhead Turtle/State Saltwater Reptile. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 26, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ADOPT THE LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE AS THE OFFICIAL
SALTWATER REPTILE OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the loggerhead sea turtle is the most common sea turtle on the coast of North
Carolina; and

Whereas, loggerhead sea turtles can live to over 50 years, growing up to four feet in
length and weighing over 250 pounds; and

Whereas, loggerhead sea turtles got their name because their heads resembled logs;
and

Whereas, the diets of loggerhead sea turtles consist of horseshoe crabs, conchs,
jellyfish, and seaweed; and

Whereas, loggerhead sea turtles lay hundreds of nests on the southern beaches of
North Carolina; and

Whereas, a female loggerhead sea turtle can lay as many as 100 eggs with hatchlings
appearing within 45-75 days; and

Whereas, the State of North Carolina does not have an official saltwater reptile; 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:

"§ 145-52. State saltwater reptile.

The loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) is adopted as the official saltwater reptile of the
State of North Carolina."

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

