## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA **SESSION 2021**

H.B. 101 Feb 17, 2021 HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

**HOUSE BILL DRH10032-LG-44A** 

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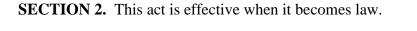
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"§ 145-52. State elk capital.

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Short Title:	Adopt Haywood Co. As Elk Capital of NC.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Representatives Pless and Clampitt (Primary Sponsors).	
Referred to:		

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 2 AN ACT ADOPTING HAYWOOD COUNTY AS THE ELK CAPITAL OF THE STATE OF 3 NORTH CAROLINA. 4 Whereas, due to overhunting and habitat loss in the mid-1800s, the elk population 5 was drastically reduced in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and 6 Whereas, in 2001, an initial 52 elk were released in Cataloochee Valley, a section of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, located in Haywood County as an experimental 7 8 project to reintroduce elk in the area; and 9 Whereas, reintroducing the elk has been a resounding success in Haywood County, 10 resulting in a herd that has grown to over 200 elk; and 11 Whereas, the herd can be spotted in Cataloochee Valley, Maggie Valley, and other 12 parts of Haywood County; and Whereas, the elk project has played a large role in tourism to Haywood County; and 13 Whereas, local restaurants and shops in Haywood County proudly post pictures of the 14 15 elk in front of their establishments and on social media to attract more customers; and 16 Whereas, the elk is a great part of Haywood County's brand and is used heavily in its 17 logo and marketing; and 18 Whereas, Haywood County created the Smoky Mountain Elk Fest, an annual festival 19 to celebrate the reintroduction of the elk and the conservation and habitat of the elk; and Whereas, Haywood County should be adopted as the official elk capital of the State 20 21 of North Carolina; Now, therefore, The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts: 22 23 SECTION 1. Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new 24 section to read:



Haywood County is adopted as the official elk capital of the State of North Carolina."

