



North Carolina Wildlife Federation

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

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Spring 2021 Legislative Priorities

Supporting:

- **HB367 Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act.** (Rep. Szoka, K. Hall, White, Turner; 36 cosponsors). Adopts the national Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act, providing greater protection and a cleaner process for owners of 'heirs property', where ownership is held jointly by multiple heirs. If enacted, this bill becomes law on January 1, 2022 and applies to all petitions for partition filed on or after that date.
- **HB372 Restore Funding/State Conservation Purposes.** (Rep. McElraft, Howard, Saine, Davis; 10 cosponsors). This bill will require varying portions of the proceeds from deed stamp excise taxes to be allocated to the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, the Land and Water Fund, the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund, and the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund by the Department of Revenue for the purpose of land conservation across the State. Originally these revenues supported land conservation, but since 2013, they have been directed to the General Fund
- **HB784 Environmental Justice Considerations.** (Rep. Harrison, K. Smith, Graham, Reives; 21 cosponsors). This bill requires that cumulative impact be considered in environmental permitting decisions on minority or low-income communities based on Title VI protection.
- **HB828 The Pollinator Protection Act.** (Rep. Harrison, Setzer, Ager, Fisher; 7 cosponsors). This restricts the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in North Carolina to protect native pollinating populations except for some key uses
- **HB894 Rebuild Southern Flounder Stocks.** (Rep. Yarborough, Saine, Bell, Cunningham; 22 cosponsors).
- **HB181 ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE STATUTES GOVERNING THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION** Adams; Yarborough; Wray; 6 cosponsors)
<https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2021/Bills/House/PDF/H181v3.pdf> *support but working to get back in proclamation authority
- **HB503 AN ACT TO DIRECT VARIOUS AGENCIES TO STUDY MATTERS ASSOCIATED WITH PFAS CONTAMINATION** (Harrison; Hurtado; Lofton; Reives; 35 cosponsors)

- HB500 **Disaster Relief and Mitigation Act of 2021**. (Bell; B. Jones; McElraft; Miller; 17 cosponsors) \$20M for flood mitigation efforts that stabilize areas and reduce future damage. Predevelopment assistance to provide small and underserved communities with technical assistance to identify and design shovel-ready projects related to disaster relief and flood mitigation. Matching funds for federal grants and other federal funding for projects related to disaster relief and flood mitigation
- Working on more than 15 bills within the [Land for Tomorrow](#) coalition on which NCWF CEO Tim Gestwicki serves as an executive committee member. NCWF also contributes towards 3 lobbyists for the work on these bills.

Opposing:

- HB460 **ACT TO DIRECT THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION TO ISSUE TWO ELK 3 CONSERVATION LICENSES BY AUCTION AND RAFFLE** (Moss; Szoka; Sasser; Gillespie; 8 cosponsors)
- HB460 **AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR EQUESTRIAN ACCESS TO CERTAIN GAME LANDS** Moss; Szoka; Sasser; Gillespie; 8 cosponsors (Pless; Clampitt; 4 cosponsors) The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide that game lands or wildlife refuges owned or managed by the Commission shall be open and available for equine use where there is an established tradition of such use. For purposes of this section "equine use" means use by pack and saddle animals. This subsection applies only to game lands or wildlife refuges located in Haywood County.
- SB 317 <https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2021/Bills/Senate/PDF/S317v0.pdf> **AN ACT TO REFORM THE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE FISHERIES IN NORTH CAROLINA** (Senator Sanderson)
- HB496 **Property Owners' Rights/Tree Ordinances**. (Rep. Boles, Hunter, Brody, Moffitt). This bill limits counties' and cities' ability to adopt ordinances regulating the removal of trees from private property without express authorization from the General Assembly. If enacted, this bill will become law immediately. This PCS adds a section on forestry management that regulates how municipalities permit timber harvesting, zoning, and compliance with standing state and federal laws.

Formally Expressing Concerns:

- HB518 **Temporarily Waive Commercial Fishing Fees** (Goodwin; Hanig; Wray; Richardson; 13 cosponsors)