

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2024

Sponsors: Representatives N. Crawford; Barbee, Bowie, Bowman, Brown, Buchanan, Colton, J. Crawford, DeVane, Diamont, Flaherty, Fletcher, Foster, Greenwood, Judy Hunt, R. Hunter, Justus, Kimsey, Lail, Nesbitt, Privette, Rhodes, and Stamey.

Referred to: Rules.

May 15, 1989

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF ELISHA
2 MITCHELL ON THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT
3 MITCHELL STATE PARK AND COMMEMORATING THE ESTABLISHMENT
4 OF THE FIRST STATE PARK IN NORTH CAROLINA.

5 Whereas, Dr. Elisha Mitchell was a pioneer scientist of the south and a
6 professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and

7 Whereas, Mount Mitchell was named for Dr. Elisha Mitchell who measured
8 the height of Mount Mitchell in 1835, and discovered for the first time that it was the
9 highest land in America east of the Mississippi River; and

10 Whereas, the reasons for establishing Mount Mitchell as the first North
11 Carolina State Park were cited in Chapter 76 of the Public Laws of 1915:

12 "Whereas, the summit of Mount Mitchell in Yancey County is the greatest altitude
13 east of the Rocky Mountains; and

14 Whereas, the headwaters of many of the important streams of the State are at, or
15 near the said summit, and the forest is being cleared, which tends to damage and injure
16 the streams flowing through the said State from the mountains to the Atlantic Ocean;
17 and

18 Whereas, it is deemed desirable that this beautiful and elevated spot shall be
19 acquired and permanently dedicated as a State park for the use of the entire State
20 seeking health and recreation; and

1 Whereas, unless the said land is acquired by the State at this time, the cost of
2 acquiring it at a later date will be greatly increased and the watercourses may be
3 damaged, and the beauty and scenery destroyed by removing the growth therefrom, and
4 irreparable damage accrue;"and

5 Whereas, millions of visitors to Mount Mitchell since 1915 have enjoyed its
6 beauty; and

7 Whereas, the General Assembly of 1987-88, affirming the wisdom of their
8 predecessors, enacted the State Parks Act which recognized that "the State of North
9 Carolina offers unique archaeologic, geologic, biologic, scenic, and recreational
10 resources. These resources are part of the heritage of the people of the State. The
11 heritage of a people should be preserved and managed by those people for their use and
12 for the use of their visitors and descendants";

13 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

14 Section 1. The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Dr. Elisha
15 Mitchell on the 75th anniversary of Mount Mitchell State Park and commemorates the
16 establishment of the first State Park in North Carolina.

17 Sec. 2. This resolution is effective upon ratification.