

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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SENATE BILL 1272*

Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources Committee Substitute Adopted 5/31/00

Short Title: Lea Island State Natural Area.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 17, 2000

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ADDITION OF LEA ISLAND STATE NATURAL
3 AREA TO THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE
4 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION.

Whereas, Section 5 of Article XIV of the North Carolina Constitution states that it shall be a proper function of the State of North Carolina to acquire and preserve park, recreational, and scenic areas, and in every other appropriate way, to preserve as a part of the common heritage of this State its open lands and places of beauty; and

Whereas, the General Assembly enacted the State Parks Act in 1987, declaring that the State of North Carolina offers unique archaeological, geological, biological, scenic, and recreational resources, and that such resources are part of the heritage of the people of the State to be preserved and managed by those people for their use and for the use of their visitors and descendants; and

Whereas, Lea Island in Pender County is one of the few remaining undeveloped barrier islands on the North Carolina coast; contains examples of high quality coastal natural communities; provides excellent breeding and migration habitat for wildlife, including several rare species; and has been found to possess biological and scenic resources of statewide significance; and

Whereas, the North Carolina State Office of the National Audubon Society has expressed particular interest in the protection of Lea Island and is willing to partner with the State to provide long-term management for the site; Now, therefore,

1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

2 Section 1. The General Assembly authorizes the Department of Environment
3 and Natural Resources to add Lea Island State Natural Area to the State Parks System as
4 provided in G.S. 113-44.14(b).

5 Section 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.