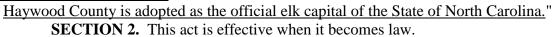
## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2023

H HOUSE BILL 180

Short Title:	Adopt Haywood County as Elk Capital of NC.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Representative Pless.	
	For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly w	eb site.
Referred to:	State Government, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the	House

## February 27, 2023

1	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
7	the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, located in Haywood County as an experimental
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
13	Whereas, the elk project has played a large role in tourism to Haywood County; and
14	Whereas, local restaurants and shops in Haywood County proudly post pictures of the
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
20	Whereas, Haywood County should be adopted as the official elk capital of the State
21	of North Carolina; Now, therefore,
22	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
23	<b>SECTION 1.</b> Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
24	section to read:
25	" <u>§ 145-52. State elk capital.</u>
26	Haywood County is adopted as the official elk capital of the State of North Carolina."



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