

Whereas, the Cape Fear River and the South River flow through northeastern Cumberland County, thereby providing an opportunity to develop a State reservoir; and
Whereas, a State reservoir in this part of the State would address the future drinking water supply needs of the area; and

Whereas, a State reservoir within that State Park would provide wholesome water sports and recreational activities to families from the entire region; and

Whereas, Cumberland County is a low-wealth county; and

Whereas, a State Park located in this economically distressed area would vastly improve the quality of the life of the people who currently reside there; and

Whereas, by preserving the natural beauty of the land and by providing recreational activities such as hiking, camping, swimming, biking, and fishing, a State Park in northeastern Cumberland County that includes a State reservoir would attract economic development to this region; Now, therefore,

1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

2 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
3 Environment and Natural Resources the sum of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for the
4 1998-99 fiscal year to review the needs of the State Parks System as described in the Plan
5 in accordance with G.S. 113-44.14(b), determine the feasibility and cost of developing a
6 State Park in northeastern Cumberland County, select a site for a State Park in
7 Cumberland County that would be conducive to having a State reservoir created within
8 that State Park, determine the feasibility and cost of developing a State reservoir that
9 could serve as a future drinking water supply for the region and provide recreational
10 activities to visitors to that State Park. The Department shall report the results of this
11 study to the 1999 General Assembly.

12 Section 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1998.