



HOUSE BILL 740: Search and Rescue Rename/Disputed County Boundaries/Mapping.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	August 29, 2017
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Jessica Sammons Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	S.L. 2017-170		

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2017-170 modernizes and updates statutes related to the urban search and rescue program and the North Carolina Geodetic Survey, including the following:*

- *Changes the name of the Urban Search and Rescue Program to the North Carolina Search and Rescue Program, and directs the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety to include reliance on memorandums of understanding and agreement with contract response teams in search and rescue efforts.*
- *Directs the North Carolina Geodetic Survey to assist counties in defining and reestablishing the location of an uncertain or disputed boundary, upon receiving written request from all counties adjacent to the uncertain or disputed boundary.*
- *Requires that maps, drawings, or documents identifying the protected mountain ridges be housed with the office of the North Carolina Geodetic Survey, NC Emergency Management, in Raleigh.*

The section of the act pertaining to the search and rescue program became effective July 1, 2017. The sections of the act pertaining to the North Carolina Geodetic Survey became effective July 21, 2017.

Section 1 – Search and Rescue:

CURRENT LAW: Article 6 of Chapter 166A provides for the Urban Search and Rescue Program. The Secretary of the Department of Public Safety must adopt rules establishing a program for urban search and rescue that relies on contracts with a specialized group of individuals with capabilities equivalent to search and rescue teams established under the Federal Emergency Management Act. The program is administered by the Division of Emergency Management, and includes contract response teams, mostly specialized subunits of local fire departments and other emergency personnel, that are strategically located in major urban centers so they can be quickly deployed across the State.

BILL ANALYSIS: This section of the act changes the name of the Urban Search and Rescue Program to the North Carolina Search and Rescue Program to more accurately reflect the diverse terrain and missions the team serves in the State, and directs the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety to additionally rely on memorandums of understanding and agreement with contract response teams in search and rescue efforts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This section of the act became effective July 1, 2017.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

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Sections 2 and 3 – NC Geodetic Survey:

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 153A-18 establishes a process by which counties can alter their boundary lines if those lines are uncertain or disputed.

Currently, under the Mountain Ridge Protection Act of 1983, maps, drawings, or documents identifying protected mountain ridges are made available for inspection at the Secretary of Environmental Quality's office.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 2 of the act modernizes G.S. 153A-18 to comport with current practices of using the North Carolina Geodetic Survey to help locate and reestablish county boundary lines. Counties with uncertain or disputed boundary lines would request help from the Geodetic Survey by submitting a written request. All the counties adjacent to the uncertain or disputed boundary must make the request. The Geodetic Survey reestablishing the boundary line would be given to the counties. If the counties fail to ratify the reestablished boundary line within one year of receiving the survey plan denoting the location of the reestablished boundary line, the survey plat would become conclusive as to the location of the boundary line and would be recorded in the Register of Deeds in each affected county and in the Secretary of State's office. The chief of the North Carolina Geodetic Survey would notify affected parties in writing of the action taken.

Section 3 of the act requires that maps, drawings, or documents identifying the protected mountain ridges be housed with the office of the North Carolina Geodetic Survey, NC Emergency Management, in Raleigh.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Sections 2 and 3 of the act became effective July 21, 2017.

Cindy Avrette, Staff Attorney in the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.