



# HOUSE BILL 94: Emergency Management/Drone Use.

2017-2018 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Transportation	<b>Date:</b>	April 11, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Speciale, Pittman, Torbett, Cleveland	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Howard Marsilio Committee Counsel
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to Second Edition H94-CSBG-12		

**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 94 (proposed committee substitute) would authorize an emergency management agency, to use an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) for all functions and activities related to emergency management.*

*The PCS would align language to the emergency management agency UAS use exception contained in Section 3 of H337.*

**CURRENT LAW:** G.S.15A-300.1(b) prohibits any person, entity, or State agency from using a UAS to (i) conduct non-consensual surveillance of persons, dwellings, or private real property or to (ii) photograph an individual with the intent to publish or disseminate the photograph (unless in newsgathering, or at newsworthy events, or events to which the general public is invited).

G.S. 15A-300.1(c) exempts law enforcement from the general UAS use prohibitions under certain circumstances, but emergency management agencies are not currently exempt from these general prohibitions.

G.S. 63-95 requires all State or local government UAS operators to complete a knowledge test demonstrating knowledge of State statutes and regulations regarding UAS operation.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 94 (proposed committee substitute) would add an exception to the general prohibitions to allow an emergency management agency to use a UAS for all functions and activities related to emergency management, and would specifically include:

- Incident command.
- Area reconnaissance.
- Search and rescue.
- Preliminary damage assessment.
- Hazard risk management.
- Floodplain mapping.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill would be effective when it becomes law.

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