



SENATE BILL 222: Search & Rescue Name/Funds.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate State and Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations/Base Budget. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 3, 2017
Introduced by:	Sens. Lee, Krawiec, J. Davis	Prepared by:	Brad Krehely
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 222 would modify the name of search and rescue services and would provide funds for search and rescue operations. The name and terminology changes would become effective when the act becomes law, and the appropriation would become effective July 1, 2017.

[As introduced, this bill was identical to H189, as introduced by Reps. Davis, Hardister, Clampitt, Grange, which is currently in House Appropriations.]

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 166A-66 is 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 contract response teams. The program is administered by the Division of Emergency Management. To the extent possible, the program must be coordinated with other emergency planning activities of the State. The program must include contract response teams located strategically across the State that are available to provide 24 hour dispatch from the Division of Emergency Management Operations Center.

The Division of Emergency Management must spend funds for training, equipment, and other items necessary to support operations of contract response teams. The Secretary may contract with units of local government to provide contract response teams to implement the program.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 222 would amend existing law by changing the name of the Urban Search and Rescue Program to the State Search and Rescue Program. It eliminates a definition for "urban search and rescue team" and creates a definition for "search and rescue team" which is very similar to the current definition for "urban search and rescue team." The act would make a number of conforming changes.

Senate Bill 222 also would appropriate \$2,397,000 to the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management. They moneys would be recurring funds to be used to support the State Search and Rescue Program. The funds must be used in partnership with units of local government to supplement local expenses in buying equipment, maintaining equipment, and providing other necessary items.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The provisions dealing with name changes and terminology changes would become effective when the act becomes law. The appropriation would become effective July 1, 2017.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578