OVERVIEW: Sec. 16B.1 of S.L. 2018-5 directs the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to do the following:

- Determine the value of all in-kind contributions made by units of local government, the federal government, and nongovernmental entities to support the North Carolina Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) system.

- Increase outreach to VIPER stakeholders beyond those that participate in the State Interoperability Executive Committee.

- Conduct an annual survey of local, State, and federal users of VIPER in order to track and measure user satisfaction and feedback over time.

This section became effective July 1, 2018.

BILL ANALYSIS:

This section directs DPS to do the following:

- Determine the value of all in-kind contributions made by units of local government, the federal government, and nongovernmental entities to support the North Carolina Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) system. In-kind contributions include cash, land, buildings, towers, and equipment for VIPER sites. DPS must report the findings to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety (JPS Oversight) by July 1, 2019.

- Increase outreach to VIPER stakeholders beyond those that participate in the State Interoperability Executive Committee. The outreach may include zone or regional meetings conducted by the State Highway Patrol with local chiefs of police, sheriffs, fire chiefs, and representatives of emergency medical services.

- Conduct an annual survey of local, State, and federal users of VIPER in order to track and measure user satisfaction and feedback over time. The survey results must be submitted annually, beginning November 1, 2019, to JPS Oversight. This requirement expires July 1, 2025.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This section became effective July 1, 2018.