



**This Bill Analysis
reflects the contents
of the bill as it was
presented in
committee.**

SENATE BILL 176: Let Mitchell Co, NC Sign MOU with Unicoi Co.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House State and Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 10, 2025
Introduced by:	Sen. Hise	Prepared by:	Brad Krehely
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 176 would allow the Mitchell County Sheriff's Office to enter into memorandums of understanding with the Unicoi County, Tennessee, Sheriff's Office to perform law enforcement special operations missions and cooperative law enforcement actions across state lines.*

CURRENT LAW & BILL ANALYSIS:

G.S. 160A-288 provides that, unless otherwise limited by local ordinance, the head of any law enforcement agency can temporarily provide assistance to another law enforcement agency upon written request. Law enforcement agencies can cooperate with law enforcement agencies from other states pursuant to G.S. 160A-288, subject to certain restrictions.

Senate Bill 176 would allow the Mitchell County Sheriff's Office to enter into memorandums of understanding with the Unicoi County, Tennessee, Sheriff's Office to engage across state lines in law enforcement special operations missions and cooperative law enforcement actions. Any memorandum of understanding entered into pursuant to this act would specify the manner in which liability claims for damage to persons or property due to law enforcement special operations missions and cooperative law enforcement actions would be shared or assigned. While ensuring public safety, each memorandum of understanding would limit to the greatest extent possible the liability of Mitchell County and the State. No later than November 1 of each year, any memorandum of understanding entered into that year pursuant to this act would be reported to the Department of Justice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would be effective when it becomes law.

Michael Johnston, Staff Attorney for the Legislative Analysis Division, contributed substantially to this summary.

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