June 13, 2002

H 1709. EXPAND USE OF 911 FUNDS. *TO CLARIFY AND EXPAND THE ALLOWED USES OF MONEY IN THE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM FUND FOR COMMUNICATION NEEDS.* Amends GS 62A-8(a) to permit funds to be used for call processing equipment, including base stations, dispatch consoles, communications towers, and other equipment necessary for communications and direct interoperability between police, fire, rescue, and other emergency response units. Also allows money to be used for certain mobile and portable radio equipment, mobile computers, and wireless modems. Amends GS 62A-8(b) to prohibit use of funds for training of dispatchers. Also authorizes cities and counties with a population exceeding 100,000 to use up to 50% of the funds to establish a public service and information telephone system. Adds GS 62A-7(b) to provide that fiscal officer to whom 911 charges are remitted must in turn remit 20% of the charges to the General Fund to be appropriated to the Dep't of Crime Control and Public Safety for uses permitted by GS 62A-8 for the benefit of the State Highway Patrol. **Intro. by Edwards.**

Ref. to Rules GS 62A