

May 15, 2006

H 2004. SEARCH AND RESCUE AIR OPERATIONS FUNDS. Filed 5/15/06. *TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE STATE HIGHWAY PATROL FOR THE PURCHASE OF HELICOPTERS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AIR SUPPORT IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS.* Amends GS 20-196.2 to require the State Highway Patrol to conduct aircraft search and rescue operations when ordered by the Governor or the Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety, or when requested by the head of a local law enforcement agency that has no aircraft available for use in search and rescue operations (operations). Defines operations to include the search for an escapee from any federal, state, or local confinement facility. Specifies that "preservation of life" is one of the purposes for which the aircraft should primarily be used.

Appropriates \$12 million from the Highway Fund to the State Highway Patrol for the purchase of four new helicopters to replace the current helicopters in operation throughout NC. Effective July 1, 2006.

Intro. by Fisher.

GS 20, APPROP