

March 19, 2007

S 970. PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE COOP. ACT. Filed 3/19/07. *TO ESTABLISH A PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT.* Adds new GS Chapter 17F, which allows public safety officers employed by local governments to form an association or labor organization. When an organization demonstrates it represents more than half the non-supervisory public safety officers, the organization may advocate for their members, be present at interrogations of members, meet with the employer's leadership, reduce agreements to a memorandum of understanding, and enforce the memorandum in a civil action. Allows an officer whose rights under GS Chapter 17F have been violated to sue in civil court to obtain injunctive relief and monetary damages, and if injury is caused by reprisals for joining the association, treble damages. Allows attorneys fees to an officer who prevails, in the court's discretion, and to the employer if the suit is frivolous.

Intro. by Cowell.

GS 17F