

May 6, 2009

H 1651. PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION. Filed 5/6/09. *TO ESTABLISH A PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT AND TO ESTABLISH THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMISSION WITHIN THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.*

Adds new GS Chapter 17F to allow unionization of state and local police, firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel. Declares right of such public safety officers to join association and for association to represent members upon showing that more than half of officers in employment unit approve. Association allowed to advocate for and represent members concerning terms of employment, including entering binding contract with employer. Public safety officer entitled to arbitration for workplace grievance not resolved by employer's administrative process.

Establishes three-member Public Safety Employee Relations Commission in Department of Labor, appointed by Governor, to set rules for recognition of association as exclusive bargaining representative and to hear and resolve charges of unfair labor practices. Commission members to serve staggered four-year terms, with salaries same as Industrial Commission plus additional \$1,500 for chair.

Amends GS 95-98, 135-18.8 and 143B-426.40A to allow payroll deductions for association dues, insurance, and fees.

Requires the Department of Labor to implement act through existing appropriations.

Intro. by Blue.

GS 17F, 95, 135, 143B