

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40057-ML-74 (02/07)

Short Title: Emergency Management/Drone Use. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Speciale and Pittman (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES PERSONNEL TO
3 USE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE
4 PURPOSES.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 15A-300.1 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 15A-300.1. Restrictions on use of unmanned aircraft systems.

8 ...

9 (c) Law Enforcement Exceptions. – Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of
10 this section, the use of unmanned aircraft systems by law enforcement agencies of the State or a
11 political subdivision of the State is not prohibited in the following instances:

- 12 (1) To counter a high risk of a terrorist attack by a specific individual or
13 organization if the United States Secretary of Homeland Security or the
14 Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety determines that
15 credible intelligence indicates that such a risk exists.
- 16 (2) To conduct surveillance in an area that is within a law enforcement officer's
17 plain view when the officer is in a location the officer has a legal right to be.
- 18 (3) If the law enforcement agency first obtains a search warrant authorizing the use
19 of an unmanned aircraft system.
- 20 (4) If the law enforcement agency possesses reasonable suspicion that, under
21 particular circumstances, swift action is needed to prevent imminent danger to
22 life or serious damage to property, to forestall the imminent escape of a suspect
23 or the destruction of evidence, to conduct pursuit of an escapee or suspect, or to
24 facilitate the search for a missing person.
- 25 (5) To photograph gatherings to which the general public is invited on public or
26 private land.

27 (c1) Emergency Management Exceptions. – Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection
28 (b) of this section, emergency management services personnel acting in the course and scope of
29 their duties may use unmanned aircraft systems for incident command, area reconnaissance,
30 personnel and equipment deployment monitoring, and other related emergency management
31 response purposes.

32"

33 SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.



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