

(a) A person is guilty of a Class I felony if the person commits an assault or affray causing physical injury on any of the following persons who are discharging or attempting to discharge their official duties:

- (1) An emergency medical technician or other emergency health care provider.
- (2) A medical responder.
- (3) Hospital personnel and licensed healthcare providers who are providing or attempting to provide health care services to a patient in a hospital.
- (4) Repealed by Session Laws 2011-356, s. 2, effective December 1, 2011, and applicable to offenses committed on or after that date.
- (5) A firefighter.
- (6) Hospital security personnel.

(b) Unless a person's conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment, a person is guilty of a Class H felony if the person violates subsection (a) of this section and (i) inflicts serious bodily injury or (ii) uses a deadly weapon other than a firearm.

(c) Unless a person's conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment, a person is guilty of a Class F felony if the person violates subsection (a) of this section and uses a firearm."

SECTION 16B.3.(b) This section becomes effective December 1, 2017, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE PROTECTION DETAIL

SECTION 16B.4.(a) Article 4 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

§ 20-189.1. Lieutenant Governor Executive Protection Detail.

(a) Creation. – There is created within the Highway Patrol a Lieutenant Governor's Executive Protection Detail. The Lieutenant Governor shall submit the names of three sworn members in good standing of the North Carolina Highway Patrol to the Commander, and the Commander shall assign those officers to serve in the Lieutenant Governor's Executive Protection Detail. The Lieutenant Governor is authorized to remove any members of the detail, with or without cause. If the Lieutenant Governor removes a member of the detail, the Lieutenant Governor shall submit to the Commander the name of an officer to replace the member who has been removed and the Commander shall assign the replacement. Members of the Lieutenant Governor's Executive Protection Detail shall continue to be employed by the North Carolina Highway Patrol subject to the laws, rules, and regulations of the Highway Patrol. The North Carolina Highway Patrol shall provide vehicles necessary for the carrying out of the Detail's duties under this Article.

(b) Duties. – The members of the Lieutenant Governor's Executive Protection Detail shall protect the Lieutenant Governor and the Lieutenant Governor's immediate family and perform duties as assigned by the Lieutenant Governor relating to the protection of the Lieutenant Governor."

SECTION 16B.4.(b) This section is effective when this act becomes law.

STUDIES TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY/PED

SECTION 16B.5.(a) The Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee shall revise the biennial 2017-2018 work plan for the Program Evaluation Division to include the following:

- (1) An evaluation of the Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) and FirstNet technologies. Specifically, the Program Evaluation Division shall:

- a. Examine the current state of VIPER and FirstNet technology and identify long-term future equipment needs and upgrades.
 - b. Examine the services provided by VIPER and FirstNet, the interoperability of the two systems, whether or not there are duplications in the system functions, and any opportunities for efficiencies and cost-sharing.
 - c. Evaluate the need for VIPER upgrades, including the immediate transition to GTR base stations and the potential establishment of regularly scheduled updates to ensure the system remains current and reliable in the future.
 - d. Identify the most effective governance and operational financing structure to ensure equitable and reasonable cost-sharing and optimal system adoption by public safety agency stakeholders.
- (2) An evaluation of the current security measures for the downtown Raleigh State Government complex and options to create cost-efficient and comprehensive security plans.

SECTION 16B.5.(b) The Program Evaluation Division shall submit the evaluation required under subdivision (a)(1) of this section to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee and to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety no later than March 1, 2018.

SECTION 16B.5.(c) Pursuant to G.S. 132-1.7, the public security information collected by the Program Evaluation Division as a result of the evaluation required under subdivision (a)(2) of this section is not a public record. The Program Evaluation Division shall complete its evaluation no later than March 1, 2018. Notwithstanding G.S. 120-36.16(3), the Program Evaluation Division shall submit its evaluation, including findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The evaluation is not a public record as defined in G.S. 132-1.

9/11 AS FIRST RESPONDERS DAY

SECTION 16B.6. G.S. 103-4(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"§ 103-4. Dates of public holidays.

- (a) The following are declared to be legal public holidays:

...

(10a) First Responders Day, September 11.

...."

SHP ELIGIBLE FOR PSAP GRANT/911 PROJECTS

SECTION 16B.7. G.S. 143B-1407 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(f) Application to State Highway Patrol. – The State Highway Patrol is an eligible PSAP for purposes of applying to the 911 Board for a grant from the PSAP Grant and Statewide 911 Projects Account. This subsection applies to funds collected on or after July 1, 2017."

USE OF STATE HIGHWAY PATROL LOGO PERMITTED

SECTION 16B.8.(a) Article 4 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 20-187.5. Trademark authorization.

The North Carolina Troopers Association is authorized to use all trademarks identifying the North Carolina State Highway Patrol held by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety or its Divisions. The use authorized under this section shall be limited to purposes that support