

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019**

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**HOUSE BILL 118
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/5/19
Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 3/27/19
Committee Substitute #3 Favorable 4/15/19
Committee Substitute #4 Favorable 5/6/19**

Short Title: First Responders Act of 2019.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 21, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE
2 NEED FOR INTERSTATE ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS TO ASSIST FIRST
3 RESPONDERS AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.(a)** Study. – The Department of Transportation shall study the needs of
6 law enforcement, emergency medical and emergency management personnel, and firefighters to
7 improve access to or within the interstate system within this State for the benefit of public safety.
8 In conducting the study, the Department of Transportation may consult with the Division of
9 Emergency Management of the Department of Public Safety, the Office of State Fire Marshal of
10 the Department of Insurance, the Office of Emergency Medical Services of the Department of
11 Health and Human Services, and any other State or local government organizations the
12 Department of Transportation determines may be of assistance in the course of the study. In
13 performing the study, the Department of Transportation shall, at a minimum, take the following
14 steps:
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- 16 (1) Consult with county fire marshal divisions, emergency management offices,
17 and emergency medical service divisions to determine potential sites of
18 interest for construction or improvement relevant to the study.
- 19 (2) Establish criteria to prioritize sites of interest for either construction or
20 improvement.
- 21 (3) Review applicable federal and State laws, codes, standards, and studies
22 relevant to the study.
- 23 (4) Review (i) existing Department of Transportation planning, design, and
24 construction standards for interchanges, median crossovers, and access points
25 and (ii) how those standards consider the needs of law enforcement,
26 emergency medical and emergency management personnel, and firefighters.
- 27 (5) Consider the feasibility of providing opportunities for stakeholder input
28 during the planning of future interstate improvements that focus on the needs
29 of law enforcement, emergency medical and emergency management
30 personnel, and firefighters.
- 31 (6) Examine any other matters the Department of Transportation deems relevant
32 in the course of the study.



1 **SECTION 1.(b)** Report. – The Department of Transportation shall report the
2 findings and recommendations, including any legislative proposals, to the Joint Legislative
3 Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, the Joint Legislative Emergency Management
4 Oversight Committee, and the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee no later
5 than March 1, 2022.

6 **SECTION 2.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
7 law.