



CHAPTER 143B

ARTICLE 13 - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

N.C.G.S. § 143B-602.

Powers and duties of the Secretary of Public Safety.

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The Secretary of Public Safety shall have the powers and duties as are conferred on the Secretary by this Article, delegated to the Secretary by the Governor, and conferred on the Secretary by the Constitution and laws of this State. These powers and duties include the following:

Provision of assistance to other agencies. - The Secretary, through appropriate subunits of the Department, shall, at the request of the Governor, provide assistance to State and local law enforcement agencies, district attorneys, and judges when called upon by them and so directed.

Coordination of government subunits emergencies. - In the event that the Governor, in the exercise of the Governor's constitutional and statutory responsibilities, shall deem it necessary to utilize the services of more than one subunit of State government to provide protection to the people from natural or man-made disasters or emergencies, including, but not limited to, wars, insurrections, riots, civil disturbances, or accidents, the Secretary, under the direction of the Governor, shall serve as the chief coordinating officer for the State between the respective subunits so utilized.

Allocation of State resources during emergencies. - Whenever the Secretary exercises the authority provided in subdivision (2) of this section, the Secretary shall be authorized to utilize and allocate all available State resources as are reasonably necessary to cope with the emergency or disaster, including directing of personnel and functions of State agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating the initial response to the disaster or emergency. Following the initial response, the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of the State agencies which have or appear to have the responsibility for dealing with the emergency or disaster, shall designate one or more lead agencies to be responsible for subsequent phases of the response to the emergency or disaster. Pending an opportunity to consult with the heads of such agencies, the Secretary may make interim lead agencies designations.

Reporting of emergencies to the Secretary. - Every department of State government is required to report to the Secretary, by the fastest means practicable, all natural or man-made disasters or emergencies, including, but not limited to, wars, insurrections, riots, civil disturbances, or accidents which appear likely to require the utilization of the services of more than one subunit of State government.

Rulemaking. - The Secretary is authorized to adopt rules and procedures for the implementation of this section.

Powers of Governor and Council of State not superseded. - Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to supersede or modify those powers granted to the Governor or the Council of State to declare and react to a state of disaster as provided in Chapter 166A of the General Statutes, the Constitution, or elsewhere.

Reporting required prior to grant awards. - Prior to any notification of proposed grant awards to State agencies for use in pursuing the objectives of the Governor's Crime Commission pursuant to sub-subdivisions a. through g. of subdivision (8) of this section, the Secretary shall report to the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Committees for review of the proposed grant awards.

Other powers and duties. - The Secretary has the following additional powers and duties:

a. Accepting gifts, bequests, devises, grants, matching funds, and other considerations from private or governmental sources for use in promoting the work of the Governor's Crime Commission.

b. Making grants for use in pursuing the objectives of the Governor's Crime Commission.

c. Repealed by Session Laws 2024-57, s. 3E.2(a), effective July 1, 2025.

d. Ascertaining the State's duties concerning grants to the State by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the United States Department of Justice, and developing and administering a plan to ensure that the State fulfills its duties.

e. Administering the Assistance Program for Victims of Rape and Sex Offenses.

f. Repealed by Session Laws 2024-57, s. 3E.2(a), effective July 1, 2025.

g. Appointing an employee of the Division of Administration to be the central point of contact for any federal surplus property or purchasing programs.

h. Being responsible for federal and State liaison activities, victim services, the Victim Services Warehouse, and the storage and management of evidence and other contents housed in the warehouse, and public affairs. (2011-145, s. 19.1(b); 2013-289, s. 3; 2015-241, s. 16A.7(g); 2017-57, s. 16B.10(d); 2024-57, s. 3E.2(ee); 2025-25, s. 29(6).)

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

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