

HB 1063 -- State Water Patrol

Sponsor: Hampton

This bill expands the jurisdiction of the State Water Patrol. Under current law, the patrol's jurisdiction includes only the state's waterways and adjacent land. The bill grants the patrol the power to arrest a person anywhere in the state when a water patrol officer witnesses a crime taking place. In addition, when a water patrol officer has probable cause to believe that a person has committed a crime within the patrol's jurisdiction, the officer may arrest that person anywhere in the state. If practicable, the water patrol officer must notify local law enforcement prior to making the arrest. Finally, the bill allows water patrol officers to request search warrants anywhere in the state, provided they notify the sheriff when requesting the warrant.