



ABC &-NEWS

A weekly newsletter on North Carolina policy and political news relevant to the North Carolina's ABC Boards

Treasurer Folwell Follows Up

One week after NC Association of ABC Boards President Miles Davis met with Treasurer Dale Folwell, the second term



Republican had a follow up conversation with lobbyists Brian Lewis and Skye David.

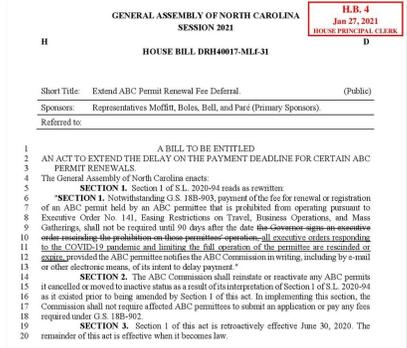
Treasurer Folwell said he shared the Association's concern about a Local Government Commission staff recommendation to have ABC Boards subject to the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. He said the proposal sounded like "a solution in search of a problem" and that he has too many actual problems to fix in local government accountability.

In addition to serving as the State Treasurer, Folwell also chairs the Local Government Commission.

"We appreciate Treasurer Folwell for meeting with us, hearing our concerns, and following up so quickly," said Davis. "ABC Board audits will continue to go to the ABC Commission, will be posted on the ABC Commission's website for the public to see. We believe that is the best practice."

HB4 Relieves Permitting Fees for NC Bars

Rep. Tim Moffitt (R-Henderson), the chair of the House Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee, teamed up with former House ABC Chairman Jamie Boles (R-Moore), House Majority Leader John Bell (R-Greene/Wayne/Johnston), and freshman Rep. Erin Pare (R-Wake) to file House Bill 4 (Extend ABC Permit Renewal Fee Deferral) on Wednesday. (Photos top-bottom.)



The legislation helps North Carolina bar

owners continue deferring permit fees while under executive orders limiting bars operations. The legislation is co-sponsored by a number of legislators across the political spectrum, including Rep. George Cleveland (R-Onslow County), arguably the most conservative legislator in the General Assembly, and his progressive counterpart, Rep. Deb Butler (D-New Hanover).



The bill was filed days after Chairman Moffitt received assurances from ABC Chairman A.D. "Zander" Guy (photo right) that the Commission will reactivate liquor licenses for shuttered private bars when re-opened and that future cancellations will be suspended and permittees who have their licenses reactivated will not be subject to any additional fees or paperwork.



If HB4 is enacted, it will give clarity to Session Law 2020-94, Senate Bill 226, which was enacted last year and allows ABC permittees to defer their permit fees for 90 days after an executive order is issued. HB4 delays permit fees until an executive order is rescinded.

The cancellation of dozens of ABC permits in early January appears to be tied to the October 2, 2020 executive order issued by Governor Roy Cooper that allows bars to operate at 30% capacity outside. Ninety days later was January 4, the day of the permit cancellations.