



# ABC & NEWS

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

## House/Senate Conference Committee Appointed

The Senate's version of [HB73 \(Temporarily Defer ABC Permit Renewal Fees\)](#), sponsored by [Rep. Tim Moffitt \(R-Henderson\)](#) returned to the House floor for a concurrence vote (a yes or no vote without amendments).

HB 73 originally passed the House the first week of March. Rep. Moffitt asked the House to not concur with the changes the Senate made.

He said the bill they had before them on the floor was like your child coming home during college, almost unrecognizable.

The House agreed with his recommendation and a conference committee will be appointed next week.

The permittee registration fees are due on May 1, so the legislature is on a tight timeline to come to a compromise on the bill.

This bill (which applies to bars, restaurants, wineries, and venue permits) temporarily allows certain ABC permittees to defer payment of renewal fees until 90 days after the final executive order opening permittees at 100% occupancy.

When the bill moved through Senate committees, the Senate opted to set a date of September 1, 2021 for the fees.

## House Bill 278 Scheduled for Committee Vote

The [House ABC Committee](#) is scheduled to hear [HB 278 \(Sunset ABC Board Participation in LGERS\)](#) on Wednesday, April 21 at 1:00 PM in Room 423 of the Legislative Office Building.

[Rep. Allen McNeill \(R-Moore/Randolph\)](#) and [House ABC Chairman Tim Moffitt \(R-Henderson\)](#) are primary sponsors of the bill.

The legislation sunsets ABC Boards' eligibility for participation in the Local Governmental Employees Retirement System on July 1. As the bill is currently written, an ABC Board that is not in the state retirement system on June 30, 2021 would be ineligible to join at a later date.

"This Association is opposed to House Bill 278 and we look forward to having positive conversations with legislators about why it is important to maintain the retirement plan for future essential employees," said NCAACB President Miles Davis right after the bill was filed.

NCAACB lobbyists met with Rep. McNeill last month and requested he include language in the bill that an ABC system that affiliated with an existing system could have the new system's employees covered under the state retirement system if the existing Board was participating. The Association also requested that Rep. McNeill extend that joining date to at least later in the year. Rep. McNeill said he agreed to the first request, but was still mulling the request extending the date.

NCAACB lobbyists will be in the House ABC Committee on Wednesday and will speak with Chairman McNeill prior to the meeting about the Association's concerns. If the bill passes the committee favorably on Wednesday then

it will shift to the [House Pensions and Retirement Committee](#), where Rep. McNeill presides.

NCAACB encourages members to [use this link to be transported](#)

[to the House ABC Committee](#) (graphic above) and reach out to committee members by email or telephone about concerns with the bill.

