



ABC &-NEWS

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

HB73 Waives ABC

Permit Fees for 1 Year

HB73 | [Temporarily Waive ABC Permit Renewal Fees](#) was filed by [House ABC Chair Tim Moffitt](#) on February 11.

The bill waives ABC permit fees from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022 and will get its first hearing on February 24 at Noon in the [House ABC Committee](#).

If successful, the bill moves to the [House Finance Committee](#).

The bipartisan bill would cover 13 types of permits: on-premises malt beverage; on-premises unfortified wine; on-premises fortified wine; mixed beverages; culinary; mixed beverages catering; guest room cabinet; wine tasting; wine shop; malt beverage tasting; spirituous liquor tasting; antique spirituous liquor; and common area entertainment.

Bar owners that have prepaid ABC permit fees for 2021-22 could also request a refund.

According to the bill's sponsors – which includes [Rep. Donny Lambeth \(R-Forsyth\)](#), [Rep. Ed Goodwin \(R-Bertie/Camden/Chowan/Perquimans/Tyrrell/Washington\)](#), and [Rep. Matthew Winslow \(R-Franklin/Nash\)](#) – \$25 million in permit fees are affected by the waiver.

[Follow the committee hearing on NCAACB's Twitter page.](#)

HB4 on Governor Cooper's Desk for Signature

[House Bill 4 \(Extend ABC Permit Renewal Fee Deferral\)](#)

was given its final General Assembly vote on Wednesday afternoon when the House voted unanimously (118-0) to accept the changes made by the Senate this past week.



The bill now sits on the desk of Governor Roy Cooper, who is expected to sign the bill into law within the week.

"It is a good bill that gives needed clarity to a Senate bill passed last session and one our Association is proud to support," said NCAACB President Miles Davis. "We know that bars are suffering in North Carolina and this bill helps provide relief."

Davis is referring to Session Law 2020-94 (Senate Bill 226), which was enacted in 2020 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 HB4 delays permit fees until an executive order is rescinded.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.

The bill quickly navigated the [Senate Rules & Operation Committee](#) and the [Senate Commerce and Insurance Committee](#) last week before heading back to the Senate Rules Committee for approval on Monday.

A unanimous floor vote (47-0) on Tuesday in the Senate was capped off the next day in the House when Representatives gave unanimous consent to the technical changes made by two Senate amendments.

Davis said he was thankful to [House ABC Committee Chairman Tim Moffitt \(R-Henderson\)](#), [Rep. Jamie Boles \(R-Moore\)](#), [House Majority Leader John Bell \(R-Greene/Wayne/Johnston\)](#), and [Rep. Erin Pare \(R-Wake\)](#) for filing the legislation and said he was looking forward to working with them over the biennium on similar bills.