



ABC & NEWS

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

HB73 Passes House ABC Committee

HB73 | [Temporarily Waive ABC Permit Renewal Fees](#)
unanimously passed the [House ABC Committee](#) on Wednesday afternoon and has moved on to the [House Finance Committee](#).

The bill waives ABC permit fees from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022 and covers 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.

[Rep. Donny Lambeth \(R-Forsyth\)](#), [Rep. Ed Goodwin \(R-Bertie/Camden/Chowan/Perquimans/Tyrrell/Washington\)](#), and [Rep. Matthew Winslow \(R-Franklin/Nash\)](#) are primary sponsors of the bill. Rep. Winslow presented the bill in committee on Wednesday.

NCAACB lobbyists Skye David and Brian Lewis met with Rep. Moffitt on Tuesday in his office and he reiterated that he planned to push a series of bills that would help small businesses like bars and restaurants, and he wants to partner with the NCAACB on getting those bills enacted.

Governor Cooper Opens Bars, Loosens Restrictions

As North Carolina's numbers continue to show improvement and vaccine distribution increases, Governor Roy Cooper announced Wednesday that the state will ease restrictions in a new executive order.

[Executive Order No. 195](#) will take effect today (February 26) at 5 pm and will expire March 26th. [Read FAQs about Executive Order No. 195 here.](#)

The order has two general categories of occupancy restrictions: 30% capacity and 50% capacity. Because indoor spaces have a higher risk of spread for COVID-19, indoor facilities in the 30% occupancy category may not exceed 250 people per indoor room or indoor space.

"It's been heartbreaking to see the devastation caused by COVID-19, both in the loss of life and the impact on small businesses – especially bars and restaurants," said NCAACB President Miles Davis. "It is our hope that this executive order is the beginning of North Carolina's comeback."

30% Capacity Limit (may not exceed 250-persons in indoor spaces) applies to the following: bars; meeting, reception, and conference spaces; lounges (including tobacco) and night clubs; indoor areas of amusement parks; movie theaters; entertainment facilities (e.g., bingo parlors, gaming establishments); sports arenas and fields; and performance venues.



aquariums, retailers, outdoor areas of amusement parks, salons, personal care, and tattoo parlors.



Larger sports venues able to seat over 5,000 people can host up to 15% of their fans, provided they adhere to additional safety restrictions. Indoor event venues with more than 5,000 seats may be excepted from the 250 person limit if they follow additional safety measures up to 15% capacity.

50% capacity limit applies to restaurants, breweries, wineries, distilleries, fitness and physical activity facilities (e.g., gyms, bowling alleys, rock climbing facilities), pools, museums,