



ABC &-NEWS

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

Retirement Bill Now Law in NC

With Governor Roy Cooper's signature, [HB 278 \(Sunset ABC Board Participation in LGERS\)](#) became law on Monday. The bill went into effect on July 1.

The law reads that "any board of alcoholic control that is not a participating employer in the Retirement System on June 30, 2021, is not eligible to participate in the Retirement System."

[Governor Cooper made the announcement in a short press release the same day he signed the bill.](#)

Happy 4th of July



NCAABC wishes all of its members a very happy Independence Day, a holiday that will be very appreciated this year after a subdued commemoration of our nation's founding last year.

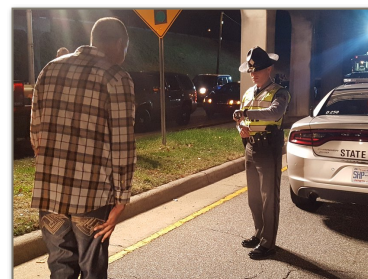
The General Assembly is scheduled to recess next week (July 5-9) and NCAABC will not publish this e-newsletter on July 9, but will resume on July 16.

'Operation Firecracker' Cracks Down on Drunk Driving

The article below was published in *The Mountaineer* and daily newspapers across the state this week. [Click here to read the article in its entirety.](#)

State officials are asking people to keep the Fourth of July and rest of the summer safe by never driving while impaired.

That was the key message Thursday in Greenville, at a kickoff of the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program's Fourth of July "Booze It and Lose It" campaign, dubbed "Operation Firecracker."



Operation Firecracker aims to prevent alcohol-related crashes by targeting impaired drivers during the holiday season.

This year's campaign is June 28 to July 4 and law enforcement agencies will run sobriety checkpoints in all 100 counties to help catch drunk drivers and reduce fatalities.

"With the summer, upcoming holidays and people emerging after quarantine – emergency departments across the state, and the first responders you see here today, will unfortunately see increases in people, especially teenagers and young people, injured or killed after making the unforgivable decision to drink and drive – a tragedy that is completely avoidable," said Dr. Jason Hack, emergency medicine physician for East Carolina University and Vidant Medical Center in Greenville.

The event celebrated the hard work and sacrifices made by health care workers, emergency medical services, law enforcement, military personnel and other first responders during the pandemic.

Speakers urged North Carolina drivers to help emergency responders by not drinking and driving.

"They have been keeping us and our families, friends and neighbors safe during the COVID-19 pandemic in North Carolina," said Mark Ezzell, director of the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program.

"And they will be working again to keep us safe this Fourth of July, when many of us are vacationing and enjoying time with friends and family," Ezzell continued. "We are grateful for their hard work. But I hope they will not have to handle any impaired driving cases this July 4th holiday."

[Click here to read the story above in its entirety.](#)