



ABC &-NEWS

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

No Action Yet from Governor

HB 278 (Sunset ABC Board Participation in LGERS) is still on the desk of Governor Roy Cooper and as of June 25, no action has been taken.

Governor Cooper has three options: sign the bill into law, not sign it and it become law on June 26, or veto the bill.

If Governor Cooper does not sign the bill by June 28 – 10 days after it was presented to him – the bill becomes law.

Senate Budget

The Senate passed their version of the budget on Thursday and Friday, with four Democrats voting for the proposal.

The budget will now be sent to the House, and the House will begin writing their proposal.

The debate on the Senate floor centered around the controversial policy portions of the bill, and Senate Democrats criticized inserting these provisions into the bill.

Speaker Tim Moore announced on Thursday afternoon that it would take the House "several weeks" to come up with their House version of the budget.

House Appropriations meetings will be meeting next week to discuss priorities.

Local Newspaper Reports on Rep. Moffitt, ABC Bills Moving

The article below was reported in the Hendersonville Lightning on June 18. Although it was written by a reporter at the Carolina Journal, a pro-privatization newspaper, the article does give an insight into House ABC Chairman Tim Moffitt (R-Henderson) and his very quick legislative work since returning to the General Assembly.



Several bills to help N.C. distillers and to loosen alcohol regulation in the state are moving through the General Assembly. Some have progressed to the floor, of both or one of the bodies, while others are mired in committee.

One measure, House Bill 693, on Wednesday, June 16, passed the N.C. House on second reading, 88-15, and was sent to the Senate. The move would allow alcohol to be sold and served on common carriers, such as charter buses. The Rev. Mark Creech, a consistent opponent of moves to loosen alcohol rules in North Carolina, said during an earlier committee meeting the move would create "bars on wheels."

Rep. Tim Moffitt, a Hendersonville Republican who is primary sponsor of the bill, came to the General Assembly for the second time in 2020, when Gov. Roy Cooper, a Democrat, appointed him to fill Rep. Chuck McGrady's seat in District 117. McGrady, a strong proponent of reforming the state's antiquated liquor control system, had served two terms from Buncombe County, from 2011 to 2015.

H.B. 693, which creates a common carrier vehicle permit, authorizes the sale or service of malt beverages, unfortified wine, fortified wine, and mixed beverages in the passenger area of a common carrier of passengers for consumption, by passengers, during journeys of 75 miles or longer that don't end within 10 miles of the journey's origin.

Another measure, House Bill 781, Bring Business Back to Downtown, passed the House in May but is stuck in the Senate. The move generated much discussion before moving to the House Rules Committee.

The bill has two parts, said Moffitt, who is also primary sponsor of the H.B. 781. One, it would allow municipalities to create social districts. He pointed to the Streets at Southpoint in Durham as an example, where people would leave a restaurant and carry a cup of alcohol within a permitted area. The second aspect, Moffitt says, would allow bars and restaurants to, in effect, extend their premises, which the governor temporarily allowed in an executive order after the pandemic. H.B. 781 would make this permanent.

[Click to read the article in its entirety.](#)