



# ABC &-NEWS

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

## ABC LGERS Bill Moves in Senate

HB 278 (Sunset ABC Board Participation in LGERS), sponsored by Rep. Allen McNeill (R-Moore/Randolph) was moved from the Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday and assigned to the Senate Committee on Pensions and Retirement and Aging.

The bill is scheduled for a hearing in that committee on Thursday. If the bill receives a favorable report in that committee then it will return to Senate Rules Committee for a vote before it heads to the Senate floor.

The bill, which unanimously passed the House last month, will disallow ABC Boards from joining the state retirement system if not in by July 1. ABC Boards that merge with other ABC Boards in the future are eligible for future enrollment in the retirement system.

NCAACB is opposed to the bill as written and has requested legislators allow ABC Boards to notify the state retirement system by July 1 of their intentions to join to be eligible. Treasurer Dale Folwell is opposed to this proposed change in the legislation.

Follow the NC Association of ABC Boards on Twitter for updates.

## General Assembly Tackles Employee Shortage

Last week, this e-newsletter reported on Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order 216, which requires those receiving unemployment benefits to look for work.

Many North Carolina employers, including ABC Boards, are having difficulty keeping enough staff in the stores to operate at full capacity.

Now General Assembly is weighing in on the problem with two bills that moved this past week in the chambers:

HB128|An Act to Reemploy NC's Workforce pays bonuses to unemployed North Carolinians who return to work while requiring anyone receiving unemployment benefits to respond to interview requests for jobs.

SB116 | Putting North Carolina Back to Work Act withdraws North Carolina from the federal unemployment programs which is paying unemployed workers with federal funds on top of the state payout. SB116 also uses \$250 million in American Rescue Plan Act money to subsidize child care for qualifying children.

NCAACB President Miles Davis has heard the challenges of ABC Boards keeping employees at the Board of Directors Meeting Friday.

According to a NC Department of Commerce report, 250,000 North Carolinians receive unemployment benefits as 200,000 job openings go unfilled.

Since the start of the pandemic, North Carolina has distributed more than \$11.7 billion in unemployment benefits across multiple state and federal programs and many employers feel they cannot compete with the state and federal government.

Follow the NC Association of ABC Boards on Twitter for updates on this developing story.



*The NCAACB Board of Directors met in Charlotte on Friday, June 4. This e-newsletter all have a report on this meeting in next week's edition.*