



# ABC &-NEWS

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

## NCAACB Attends NABCA Symposium



NCAACB lobbyists and attorneys Skye David and Jon Carr attended the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association's 28th Annual Symposium on Alcohol Beverage Law on Monday.

The symposium, which was held virtually, offered David and Carr the most current legislative, regulatory, and judicial activity impacting the operation and regulation of the alcohol beverage industry.

This was David's first NABCA meeting after last year's in-person event in Maryland was cancelled because of COVID-19 concerns and pandemic-related executive orders.

"It was a tremendously beneficial and substantive online event and I appreciated learning directly from regulators, industry analysts, and fellow attorneys doing similar ABC policy work in other states," David said.

Sessions at this year's training included topics on e-commerce, COVID-19, federal legislation, tariffs, addiction, and trade practices.

## NCAACB Lobbyists Meet with Retirement Chair on HB278

NCAACB lobbyists Brian Lewis and Jon Carr met on Tuesday with [Rep. Allen McNeill \(R-Randolph/Moore\)](#) (photo) on [HB278|Sunset ABC Board Participation](#) – a bill he filed with [Rep. Tim Moffitt \(R-Henderson\)](#) that sunsets ABC Boards' eligibility for participation in the Local Governmental Employees Retirement System on July 1. Rep. McNeill chairs the [House Pensions and Retirement Committee](#) and Rep. Moffitt chairs the [House ABC Committee](#).



The meeting followed a Monday conversation Lewis had with Sam Watts, the liaison to the General Assembly for [NC Treasurer Dale Folwell](#), who oversees the state retirement system. Watts said HB278 was not requested by the Treasurer's Office or Treasurer Folwell, however the Treasurer had not determined his position on the bill as of Monday.

"The goal of the meeting with Chairman McNeill was to get more information on the legislation, including the reason it was filed, and to use this information to determine how our Association should proceed," said NCAACB President Miles Davis. "We appreciate the chairman giving us the courtesy of a meeting and for listening to our concerns."

Here is what Rep. McNeill shared with Lewis and Carr:

- The General Assembly may have plans, likely in the long-term, to privatize the state retirement fund, including transitioning it from a traditional pension plan to a 401(k) type system.
- Disallowing ABC Boards from participating in the state retirement system will make the eventual privatization of the state retirement system easier for legislators.

Lewis and Carr expressed concern over the bill and asked Rep. McNeill to consider changes if the legislation was intended to move, including:

- Extend the date to join the state retirement system past July 1 to give ABC Boards wanting to be grandfathered more opportunity to do so.
- Insert clarifying language that a new ABC system that merged with an existing system could have the new system's employees covered under the state retirement system if the existing Board was participating.

Lewis and Carr plan to follow up with Rep. McNeill after he consults with Treasurer Folwell on the proposed changes offered by NCAACB. It should be noted that NCAACB is opposed to HB278 even with changes to the bill.