



# ABC & NEWS

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

## NCAACB Follows Up with Rep. McNeill



NCAACB lobbyists Jon Carr and Brian Lewis followed up on Wednesday with [Rep. Allen McNeill \(R-Randolph/Moore\)](#) on [HB278|Sunset ABC Board Participation](#) – a bill that sunsets ABC Boards' eligibility for participation in the Local Governmental Employees Retirement System on July 1.

NCAACB sent Rep. McNeill an email last week with a request that he include clarifying language in the bill that an ABC system that affiliated with an existing system could have the new system's employees covered under the state retirement system if the existing Board was participating.

An extension of the July 1 date to allow ABC Boards not in the retirement system to join was also requested in the email.

Rep. McNeill said he agreed to the first request, but was still considering the second. As the meeting he ended, he asked Carr and Lewis if an October sunset date would suffice. A follow-up discussion with Rep. McNeill will take place after the Easter break.

## Executive Order Eases Restrictions on Bars & Restaurants

Governor Roy Cooper announced Tuesday that the state will ease COVID-19 restrictions that will positively effect the restaurant and bar industry, including allowing the sale of alcohol until 2AM. [Executive Order No. 204](#) will take effect today (March 26) at 5PM.



"This is fantastic news for our state, and we hope it is a major economic lift for our hometown restaurants and bars that have made so many economic sacrifices during the pandemic," said NCAACB President Miles Davis. "This Association and our local ABC Boards across North Carolina look forward to getting these small businesses back on their feet and thriving again."

[Executive Order No. 204](#) also increases mass gathering limits (from 25 to 50 people indoors and 50 to 100 outdoors), while maintaining masks and social distancing requirements.

**100% Capacity:** Museums and aquariums, retail businesses, salons, personal care and grooming businesses, tattoo parlors.

**Indoors up to 75% and Outdoors up to 100% Capacity:** Restaurants, breweries, wineries, and distilleries, recreation, fitness and physical activity facilities, pools, and amusement parks.

**Indoors and Outdoors up to 50% Capacity:** Bars, movie theaters, gaming facilities, meeting, reception, and conference spaces, lounges and night clubs, auditoriums, arenas, and other venues for live performances, and sports arenas and fields (includes professional, collegiate, and amateur).

North Carolina continues to see rising numbers for vaccine distribution. As of this past Tuesday, the state has administered over 4.1 million doses with over 31.7 percent of people 18 and up receiving at least one dose. 18.8 percent are fully vaccinated.

"Our fast and fair vaccine distribution and our sustained progress with the COVID-19 metrics tell us we can move forward with easing restrictions if we do it safely," said Governor Cooper on Tuesday.

Executive Order No. 204 expire April 30 when more restrictions are expected (hopefully) to be lifted.