



# ABC &-NEWS

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

## Governor Signs HB4



House Bill 4 (Extend ABC Permit Renewal Fee Deferral) is now law after Governor Roy Cooper signed the bill at 1:40PM on February 25.

The governor's signature caps off unanimous support by the General Assembly for a bill that allows ABC permittees to defer their permit fees until after an executive order is rescinded.

The bill was filed by House ABC Committee Chairman Tim Moffitt (R-Henderson) and co-sponsored by Rep. Jamie Boles (R-Moore), House Majority Leader John Bell (R-Greene/Wayne/Johnston), and Rep. Erin Pare (R-Wake).

"Our Association thanks the bill sponsors, the General Assembly, and Governor Cooper for supporting this bill that will provide relief to so many small businesses in North Carolina," said NCAACB President Miles Davis. "This was the first ABC bill to pass the General Assembly and to be signed into law and we hope it sets the tone for the legislative biennium."

## HB73 Passes House, Moves to Senate

HB73 | Temporarily Waive ABC Permit Renewal Fees unanimously passed the House Finance Committee on Thursday and hours later received a 116-1 vote on the House floor before being sent to the Senate by special messenger, an indication that a bill is on the fast track for enactment.



The bill was assigned to the Senate Rules Committee and will likely head to the Senate Commerce and Insurance Committee in the coming week. The Senate Commerce and Insurance Committee is the counterpart committee in the Senate to the House ABC Committee.

The bill waives ABC permit fees from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022 and covers 13 types of permits: on-premises malt beverage; on-premises unfortified wine; on-premises fortified wine; mixed beverages; culinary; mixed beverages catering; guest room cabinet; wine tasting; wine shop; malt beverage tasting; spirituous liquor tasting; antique spirituous liquor; and common area entertainment.

According to a fiscal note unveiled in the House Finance Committee on Thursday, the bill will cost the state about \$16 million in lost revenue.

Rep. Donny Lambeth (R-Forsyth), Rep. Ed Goodwin (R-Bertie/Camden/Chowan/Perquimans/Tyrrell/Washington), and Rep. Matthew Winslow (R-Franklin/Nash) are primary sponsors of the bill. Sen. Jim Perry (R-Wayne/Lenoir) is taking lead in the Senate on the bill.

There are approximately 50,000 retail commercial permits in North Carolina which authorize the retail sale of alcoholic beverages. The ABC Commission issues these permits to qualified persons and establishments in jurisdictions which have held ABC elections and approved the sale of alcoholic beverages.

The holder of an ABC permit shall ensure that the Commission's rules governing the sale, possession, transportation, storage and consumption of alcoholic beverages on the licensed premises are adhered to by employees and patrons.