



ABC &-NEWS

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

Senate Holds ABC Bill from Floor

With [HB890 \(ABC Omnibus Legislation\)](#) passing the House this week, the Senate removed [SB453 \(Modernize ABC Controls\)](#) from the calendar on Thursday.

SB453 is sponsored by Senators [Todd Johnson \(R-Union\)](#), [Danny Britt \(R-Robeson/Columbus\)](#), and [Kirk deViere \(D-Cumberland\)](#).

While SB453 is short in comparison to HB890, it makes substantive changes to ABC law and is concerning to the NCAACB, including a provision that allows online purchases at ABC Stores with anyone of legal age allowed to pick up the order.

The Senate also allows for event centers to seek an ABC mixed beverage permit, which attracted criticism from senators serving on the [Senate Commerce and Insurance Committee](#).

While SB453 could be considered ineligible after the crossover deadline on Thursday, it is possible that the bill, or any of its sections, could be inserted in HB890 in the Senate.

A Senate spokesperson said Thursday that the GOP caucus did not have the time to thoroughly review SB453 prior to a full Senate vote, but reserves the right to amend a House bill in the future.

ABC Omnibus Bill Passes House with Changes

[HB890 \(ABC Omnibus Legislation\)](#), sponsored by House [ABC Committee Chairman Tim Moffitt \(R-Henderson\)](#), passed two committees and the House floor ([100-10](#)) this past crossover week. The bill is co-sponsored by Representatives [Jamie Boles \(R-Moore\)](#), [Shelly Willingham \(D-Edgecombe/Martin\)](#), and [Jason Saine \(R-Lincoln\)](#).

The legislation now sits in the [Senate Rules Committee](#) and is likely to be assigned to the [Senate Commerce and Insurance Committee](#), the counterpart to the House ABC Committee, when the upper chamber returns next week.

On Tuesday morning, representatives from the NC Association of ABC Boards, NC Spirits Association, North Carolina Distillers Association, and the Beer and Wine Wholesalers met with Rep. Moffitt and many members of the House ABC Committee to discuss concerns with HB890 and changes were made prior to the legislation reaching the House floor:

- Online orders placed at an ABC Store must be picked up by the same person who placed the order. (Online orders would be a local option).
- Distilleries cannot sell spirituous liquor bottles outside of authorized ABC Store Hours (9am-9pm), but would allow distilleries to sell liquor on holidays where ABC Stores are closed and on Sundays from 12pm-9pm.
- At agricultural festivals, farmers markets, trade shows, conventions, and local fundraisers would be limited to one mini bottle per customer (in addition to the sale of mixed beverages). It would not allow for sales at shopping malls, street festivals, or holiday festivals.
- There will be one representative from the NC Association of ABC Boards on the North Carolina Spirituous Liquor Advisory Council.



NCAACB President Miles Davis said he was appreciative of Rep. Moffitt's willingness to hear the concerns of ABC Boards and to make changes. "While we still have concerns about the ABC Omnibus Legislation, we are thankful for the leadership of Chairman Moffitt and his willingness to work in partnership with us," said Davis. "Our Association looks forward to further discussions with him and our friends in the North Carolina Senate, who want to ensure that the public and their health is protected."