



# ABC &-NEWS

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

## NCAACB Preps for Post X-over

NCAACB lobbyists met with Sen. Todd Johnson (R-Union) on Tuesday morning to discuss HB890 (ABC Omnibus Legislation), which is now in the Senate after crossover.

Sen. Johnson and Sen. Danny Britt (R-Robeson/Columbus) will handle HB890 in the Senate along with the bill sponsor Rep. Tim Moffitt (R-Henderson).

Sen. Johnson and Sen. Britt, along with Sen. Kirk deViere (D-Cumberland) sponsored SB453 (Modernize ABC Controls), but the bill was never heard on the Senate floor.

According to Sen. Johnson, the content of SB453 is likely to be merged with HB890. After a discussion of concerns by NCAACB on both pieces of legislation, he requested a memorandum giving more details.

The NCAACB Legislative Committee met on Thursday by video (photo) to outline a memo that will be sent in the coming days.



## Governor Lifts Mask Restrictions, Gathering Limits

Hours after the this e-newsletter was published last week, Governor Roy Cooper announced he was lifting all mass gathering limits and social distancing requirements effective May 14.

Executive Order 215 puts North Carolina in line with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation issued on May 13 that fully vaccinated individuals can safely do most activities without wearing a mask or the need to social distance from others.

In accordance with the new CDC guidance, there will still be certain settings where masks and other safety measures will be required. Masks will still be required in child care, schools and camps as most children are either not yet vaccinated or are not yet eligible to be vaccinated.

Everyone, including people who are fully vaccinated will still be required to wear a mask in certain settings such as public transportation, health care settings like hospitals, doctor's offices and long-term care settings like nursing homes, and certain congregate settings like correctional facilities and homeless shelters.

What Executive Order 215 Means for ABC Stores:

- There is no longer a requirement to wear masks indoors.
- There is no requirement to check to see if someone is vaccinated.
- Social distancing and capacity limits indoors are lifted.
- A store MAY require customers to continue to wear masks as a store policy, but this is no longer a requirement.

If a store believes that an employee could have been exposed or tests positive for COVID-19, Stores should:

- Immediately close and disinfect and sanitize the store
- Ensure that the sanitation process is as thorough as possible before the re-opening of the ABC Store;
- After the store reopens, employees should continue to disinfect and sanitize the store as much as practicable.

"We care about our employees, our customers, and our communities, so we are taking extra steps to make our stores a safe place to be," said Miles Davis, President, NC Association of ABC Boards.