



ABC &-NEWS

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

General Assembly Powers Down

After a rush to get legislation passed by crossover in mid May, the General Assembly has noticeable downshifted and is working at a much slower pace.

NCAACB lobbyists are using this time to prepare for the next stretch of the legislative session. Here's what's happening, or rather, not happening:

1. Crossover was exhausting and the leadership in both chambers is giving members a breather heading into the Memorial Day Weekend. There's also college and high school graduations. The last two weeks, the House and Senate calendars have been less full and floor votes limited to one or two days a week.
2. The Senate and House are not in agreement over a budget. The Senate wants to spend \$750 million less than the House and it's taking up the bandwidth of the chambers' leaders. It's also had a chilling effect on the chambers wanting to take up the other's bills.
3. It's likely to be a long summer: A prolonged budget negotiation and redistricting means the General Assembly just may last until Christmas this year.

Executive Order Could Help Bars, Restaurants

With many bars, restaurants, and hotels across the state struggling to find employees, Governor Roy Cooper announced Executive Order 216 last week.

Under the order, those receiving unemployment benefits will be required to fulfill work search requirements

beginning June 6, 2021. All existing claimants will be required over the next several weeks to register with a jobseeker account on NCWorks.gov.

The Order also directs the N.C. Department of Commerce to explore opportunities, consistent with federal law and through the use of certain federal funds, to establish a reemployment incentive program for jobless workers who find and maintain employment.

NCAACB President Miles Davis praised the executive order and said it will help struggling businesses make a comeback, especially in the hospitality industry. "The service industry – which includes bars, restaurants, and hotels – are incapable of rebounding from this horrific pandemic so long as there are not enough employees to staff these businesses," said Davis. "We appreciate Governor Cooper's action here just as we appreciated his protective actions when COVID-19 was ravaging our state."

Under Executive Order 216, claimants must make contact with at least three different employers each week and keep a record of their work search, as is required by state law. One of the three weekly job contacts can be satisfied by attending an approved reemployment activity offered by a NCWorks Career Center or a partnering agency.

To continue receiving benefits, all unemployment claimants will be required to register with a jobseeker account on NCWorks.gov, North Carolina's online portal for employment and training services. Jobseekers can use NCWorks.gov to search and apply for jobs, access labor market information and find opportunities for workforce training. Over the next several weeks, existing claimants will receive notifications about registering for NCWorks.



The NCAACB Program & Evaluation Committee met this week at the University Club in Raleigh to discuss the Annual Meeting in Winston-Salem on August 15-17. [Click for more information.](#)