



# ABC &-NEWS

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

## ABC Boards at Work on Tasting Rule Proposal

A delay by the ABC Commission to hear the proposed Tasting Rule has allowed the NC Association of ABC Boards' attorneys to work on language more favorable to local ABC boards.

The meeting is now scheduled for June 10 at 10am at the ABC Commission in Raleigh.

NCAACB Attorney Skye David holds weekly calls with the ABC Commission to discuss issues on behalf of local ABC boards, including discussions about the potential for language changes.

David also partners with fellow NCAACB Attorney Jon Carr on writing and reviewing draft language to propose, in addition to reaching out to partner groups, such as the NC Spirits Association and the North Carolina Distillers Association.

"As language options become clearer, our attorneys will keep members updated on the changes, as well as any updates from the ABC Commission," said NCAACB President Miles Davis, who is monitoring the discussions and guiding the organization's attorneys on the end goal.

Davis reports that if the language remains as written, the NCAACB will voice concerns at the June 10th meeting.

## General Assembly Nixes Curbside Mixed Drinks

The General Assembly opted to leave out a House plan to allow the sale of mixed drinks curbside by restaurants shut down by a gubernatorial order. The provision was initially included in HB1043 (Pandemic Response Act), but it was not included in a final negotiated bill that eventually made it out of the Senate on Saturday and on to Governor Roy Cooper's desk for a signature on Monday.

The NC Association of ABC Boards was officially neutral on the provision, but was – and is – monitoring it closely.

The provision would have allowed the ABC Commissioner to authorize mixed beverages to accompany takeout or delivery food purchases. All mixed drinks sold curbside would be limited to two drinks per meal or food items. Containers would need to be "sealed with a secure lid or cap and in a manner to prevent consumption without removal of the lid or cap."

Sen. Jay Chaudhuri (D-Wake) was critical of the omission in the final bill. "We missed an easy opportunity to put money into our bars and restaurants that are really, really hurting," he said. "I'm going to keep fighting for these small business owners when we return back in a few weeks."

The "few weeks" Sen. Chaudhuri is referring to is the General Assembly's planned return to Raleigh on May 18 to start its short session. The short session, which is usually a budget tweaking session, is delayed because of the delay in filing income taxes to July 15.

At that upcoming session, Sen. Chaudhuri told NC Association of ABC Boards lobbyist Brian Lewis that another senator will file a bill to allow curbside alcohol service.

## In Memorium – Senator Tony Rand (1939-2020)

The NC Association of ABC Boards joins the rest of North Carolina in mourning the loss of former Sen. Tony Rand, a Cumberland County Democrat, who rose to be one of the most powerful leaders in the state.

You can read Sen. Rand's colorful obituary [here](#).

"Sen. Rand was a friend of this great state and wanted to see all of its citizens grow and thrive," said NCAACB President Miles Davis. "He was also a great friend to this Association and our work in communities. We miss him dearly."

