



# ABC &-NEWS

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

## Tastings Rule Update

The NC ABC Commission voted unanimously on September 9 to publish the proposed Tastings Rule in the Register. The rule is now in front of the Rules Review Commission, which has 30 days to approve. If approved, the tasting rule is effective on the first day of the following month.

The NC Association of ABC Boards worked and negotiated with the ABC Commission since January on the proposed ABC Commission Rule.

"It has been a long process as we negotiated with the Commission, other stakeholders, and listened to the needs of local boards," said NCAACB President Miles Davis.

The General Assembly required the ABC Commission to develop rules regarding tastings and mandated boards provide "reasonable opportunities" for local distilleries to conduct tastings.

The ABC Commission was concerned that allowing more tastings for a certain kind of permittee would be deemed unconstitutional by the Rules Review Commission.

"This Association did an effective job negotiating the ABC Commission's directive from the General Assembly with the needs of our members," said Davis. ([Read the rule here.](#))

## NC's Impaired Driving Plan: ABC System Saves Lives

The NC Association of ABC Boards worked this summer with the North Carolina Statewide Impaired Driving Task Force on its FY2021 Impaired Driving Plan.

The Plan provides a comprehensive strategy for preventing and reducing alcohol-impaired driving and provides data on the impaired driving problem in North Carolina, including the life-saving merits of maintaining North Carolina's ABC system.

"We appreciate the Task Force reaching out to the Association and for including data as to why our communities and our roads are safer under our current ABC system," said NCAACB President Miles Davis.

The Association's input into the report can be found on pages 51-52 of the report:

*Excessive alcohol use costs the U.S. approximately \$223.5 billion per year. Much of this cost is due to auto crashes. The reduction of excessive alcohol consumption through a controlled ABC system is a matter of major public health and economic interest for North Carolina as there is strong, empirical evidence that privatization of retail alcohol sales leads to increases in excessive alcohol consumption, which in turn leads to increased instances of impaired driving.*

*Seventeen studies have assessed the impact of privatizing retail alcohol sales on the per capita alcohol consumption, a well-established proxy for excessive alcohol consumption, including nine studies that also examined the effects of privatization on the per capita consumption of alcoholic beverages that were not privatized. Across those academic studies, there was a 44.4% median increase in the per capita sales of privatized beverages in locations that privatized retail alcohol sales. During the same period, sales of nonprivatized alcoholic beverages decreased by a median of 2.2%.*

*In addition, local ABC boards provide vital revenue for needed community services. In 2017, local boards provided approximately \$25 million to local treatment services, alcohol rehabilitation programs and law enforcement services.*

The Impaired Driving Task Force has a long and storied history in North Carolina. Since its inception via Executive Order in the late 1980s.

