



# ABC & NEWS

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

## Governor Signs Omnibus ABC Bill

Two days after passage by the General Assembly, Governor Roy Cooper signed [House Bill 890 \(ABC Omnibus Legislation\)](#) into law on Friday, September 10.

As reported last week in the e-newsletter, there are concerns about requiring local boards to offer delivery service to mixed beverage permittees.

The language of concern reads: *"A local board shall offer delivery service to mixed beverage permittees. In providing delivery of purchased products to mixed beverage permittees, the local board may use its employees or contract with one or more independent contractors and may charge a fee to the permittee. A local board in a Tier 1 or Tier 2 county, as defined in G.S. 143B-472.35(a2)(18), may request an exemption to this requirement from the ABC Commission. The Commission shall grant the request if the local board can show evidence of unreasonable hardship or difficulty incurred by implementing delivery service."*

HB890 is a 28-page bill that includes a list of changes to ABC law, including the allowance of distilleries to offer tours, tastings, and cocktails from 7AM to 2AM.

(See main article for a detailed [memo on HB890](#)).

## Omnibus ABC Bill/HB890 Memorandum

The article below was excerpted from [a memorandum](#) authored by [NCAABCB lobbyist Jon Carr](#). It is intended to inform the membership on the most relevant sections of HB890, which was signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper (see sidebar article).

To read HB890 [click here](#) and to read the [memo prepared by NCAABCB](#) [click here](#).

Section 1 - Allows an ABC store to accept an order and payment for that order online but does not require the ABC store to do so. Only natural persons may make online orders. The same person that places the order must pick up the order. Effective October 1, 2021.

Section 2.1 - Allows personalized labeling on liquor bottles, including the name of an ABC board or ABC store.

Section 5.1 - Establishes a new Spirituous Liquor Advisory Council to be appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Appointees must have experience in either liquor industry or tourism. The Council is required to have one member as a representative of the NC Association of ABC Boards, one member as a representative of the NC Restaurant and Lodging Association, and one member as a representative of the ABC Commission. The primary purpose of the Council is to promote NC's liquor industry.

Section 6.1 - Allows NC distilleries to sell liquor in closed containers to visitors who tour the facility at times and days that are different from the sale of liquor by ABC stores. Distilleries can now sell their product between 9 am and 9 pm Monday - Saturday, from noon to 9 pm on Sundays, and from 9 am to 9 pm on the following holidays that do not fall on a Sunday: New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving Day.

Section 6.2 - Allows supplier representative, brokerage representatives and distillery permittees, in addition to nonresident spirituous liquor vendor permittees (out of state distillers, or brokerages or importers/bottlers) to obtain a liquor special event permit to: Hold tastings at farmers markets; sell mixed beverages at trade shows, conventions, agricultural festivals, farmers markets, local fundraisers and other similar events approved by the Commission, subject to numerous conditions; and provide without charge one free mini-bottle per customer per calendar day per distillery trade shows, conventions, agricultural festivals, farmers markets, local fundraisers and other similar events approved by the Commission, subject to numerous conditions.

([Click here to read the entire NCAABCB memo detailing the relevant sections of HB890 for NC ABC Boards.](#))