



# ABC &-NEWS

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

## NC ABC Commission Meeting Minutes

The NC ABC Commission held its regular monthly meeting by conference call on September 22 and commissioners addressed Chairman Zander Guy's resignation on September 17 and thanked him for his years of service to the state and to the ABC system. Commissioners also thanked ABC Commission staff for their hard work and commitment during the pandemic.

The Commission granted authority to Deputy Commissioner Terrance Merriweather to conduct administrative actions and other business in the day-to-day operations of the Commission, and to take emergency actions (such as summary suspensions of ABC permits) if such actions are required prior to a regular monthly Commission meeting. This authority will expire upon the appointment of a Chairman by Governor Cooper.

The Commission ratified 52 hearing cases that resulted in penalties in excess of \$62,400 and/or imposition of suspensions of permits for three days or more. Fines are due on or before October 15, 2021, and suspensions begin October 22, 2021.

[Click to read the minutes from this public meeting.](#)

## House ABC Panel Holds Hearing on Liquor Shortage

The article below was excerpted from an article published by CBS17 on September 29. [Click here to read the entire article.](#)

Leaders of the state's Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission said Wednesday they're taking steps to deal with liquor supply issues across North Carolina, but some legislators said they had unanswered questions following a two-hour hearing.



*NCAACB President Nancy Gooch addressed the NC House ABC Committee on Wednesday and shared the perspective of members across the state about the supply chain affecting the nation and NC.*

Amid the pandemic, global supply chain and labor shortage issues have impacted a variety of industries, noted Deputy Commissioner Terrance Merriweather.

That's happened as demand for liquor has soared. The ABC Commission said in July of this year, sales were almost 40 percent higher compared to July 2019.

However, they acknowledged a software change made that same month exacerbated problems with getting orders processed and store shelves stocked.

Ben Thompson, an attorney representing LB&B Associates, a private company with which the ABC Commission contracts, said, "Yes, July was an awful month for everybody."

"There's no question there were delivery problems in July and August. We own that," he said. "We fell behind on our deliveries. We just could not keep up and catch up."

Republicans in the General Assembly held a hearing Wednesday questioning why those issues persist.

"I live in Southern Pines. I went down to the ABC store the other day, and it was bare," said Rep. Jamie Boles (R-Moore County).

Sen. Todd Johnson (R-Union) said he's noticed ongoing issues, particularly in rural parts of his county.

[Click here to read the entire article published by CBS17.](#)