



North Carolina Spirits Association

Legislative Report
September 24, 2021

The Chairman of the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission, A.D. “Zander” Guy, has resigned from the board, citing anxiety over the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the agency’s recent challenges with liquor distribution. Chairman Guy submitted his resignation last Friday to Governor Cooper, who appointed him to the chairmanship in early 2017. Guy, the former mayor of Surf City, said he will be 73 next month, and that two friends and an uncle with COVID-19 had died in the last 90 days. Guy also said liquor supply troubles, including the rollout of a new computerized inventory and ordering software program by the ABC system’s warehouse operations contractor, had led to added stress. There are two other commissioners who also serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The chairman is considered a full-time, salaried position. Terrance Merriweather, Deputy Commissioner of the ABC Commission, will oversee daily operations of the agency until the governor appoints a new chairman.

The House and Senate Appropriations Chairs have pretty much wrapped up their work on the state budget bill, and issues in dispute have been kicked up to the corner offices, to Speaker Moore and President Pro Tem Berger. Speaker Moore and Senator Berger plan to begin meeting in the next few days, and could have a conference report ready for the Governor to review early to middle of next week. It seems like the earliest the conference report on the budget could be voted on by the House and Senate is during the week of October 4.

The Senate honored late Senator Marc Basnight (D-Dare) during Tuesday’s session with a resolution honoring his life and memory and the unveiling of a portrait to be hung in the chamber at a later date. Senators who served with Basnight as well as members of his family, friends, staff members and other state officials attended the session. The resolution “expresses the deep gratitude and appreciation of this State and its citizens for the invaluable service he rendered to the people of northeastern North Carolina and the entire State” for Basnight, considered one of the most influential lawmakers in state history. Senator Basnight died in late December at 73 after a long battle with ALS. Basnight served in the Senate from 1984 to 2011 and was the Senate leader from 1993 to 2011, the longest serving legislative leader in state history. He played a key role in higher education funding, the construction of the UNC Cancer Hospital after the death of his wife, Sandy, of cancer, and steering road and other projects to the Outer Banks.

Senator Ben Clark (D-Hoke) announced this week that he will not seek re-election next year, stating that 10 years is “probably enough time” in the legislature. He said he will finish out his current term, but there will be an open seat for someone to fill come the 2022 elections.

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday September 27.

For more information about legislation described in the legislative reports, feel free to contact us at mfrazier@nexsenpruet.com or dferrell@nexsenpruet.com, or at (919) 573-7421. Information is also available on the General Assembly's website: www.ncleg.gov.

Prepared By: David P. Ferrell, Esq. - NCSA Lobbyist
NEXSEN PRUET PLLC
150 Fayetteville Street, Suite 1140
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
Telephone: (919) 573-7421
dferrell@nexsenpruet.com