



North Carolina Spirits Association

Legislative Report
May 24, 2019

While there have been some committee meetings and public activity at the General Assembly this week, there has not been a tremendous amount of public activity. Most of the activity has been behind closed doors with Senate leadership continuing to draft their version of the State budget bill. It has been reported that the Senate will hold a press conference next Tuesday, May 28th, regarding the Senate version of the State budget bill. It is anticipated that the Senate version of the budget bill will be released at that time and will be followed by a public review in the various Senate Appropriations Committees. It is likely that the Senate version of the State budget bill will be approved next week and this will set the stage for the House and Senate leadership to begin their negotiations to resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions.

On Thursday the House had no bills scheduled for consideration and the Senate considered five bills. The House and Senate will be off for the Memorial Day holiday on Monday and will resume their activities on Tuesday.

BILL STATUS

House Bill 363, Craft Beer Distribution & Modernization Act, has been approved by the General Assembly and sent to Governor Roy Cooper for his signature.

Senate Bill 290, Distiller Regulatory Reform Bill, was not heard this week, and due to the Senate's focus on the state budget bill, is not likely to be heard next week. We have been working with the bill sponsor, various stakeholders, and the proponents of the self-distribution provision for small distillers contained in Section 3 of the bill to see if a compromise can be reached that would address their concern without instituting broad self-distribution for a segment of the spirits industry. We continue to make progress towards that goal, and hope a compromise can be worked out in the near future.

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

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