



North Carolina Spirits Association

Legislative Report
March 24, 2023

This Week at the General Assembly

This week the spotlight was on sports wagering legislation. Representative Jason Saine (R-Lincoln) introduced the bill last week and it received favorable reports from the Commerce, Finance, and Judiciary 1 committees this week. Next week, it will be reviewed by the House Rules Committee before a vote by the full House. Although it failed unexpectedly last summer due to last-minute amendments and members changing their votes, the bill has bipartisan sponsorship, 52 co-sponsors, and the support of House leadership, making it highly likely to pass the House next week.

The Medicaid Expansion bill, which was subject to a concurrence vote, passed the House 95-21, with all opposition coming from Republicans. However, the implementation of Medicaid expansion is contingent on the budget becoming law later this year, so it's not a done deal yet.

This week was comparatively slower for policy bills, especially in the Senate. With the House budget and over 700 bills introduced, the legislative staff has been busy. This week provided legislative staff a chance to attempt to get caught up on drafting bills in advance of the bill introduction deadlines – April 5 in the Senate and April 25 in the House.

The House Budget

Speaker Moore made an announcement on Wednesday that the House Budget will be released on Wednesday March 29. The budget process this year has been swift as the deadline for getting the budget signed into law is set for June 30. The House Appropriations Committee will hold a hearing on the budget on Thursday March 30, where amendments can be offered and will be considered. The following week, the budget will be considered and voted on by the full House, where we anticipate seeing some Democrat support. After that, the process will repeat in the Senate.

The legislature adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday March 27.

Bills of Interest

House Bill 418, ABC/Community College Athletic Facility, would authorize community colleges to allow alcohol sales at stadiums, athletic facilities, and arenas located on school property. **Introduced by Representative F. Jackson (D) and referred to the House ABC Committee.**

House Bill 454, Concord/Distribution of ABC Net Profits, would to clarify the distribution of net profits from the operation of the City of Concord Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. The bill provides the Board shall distribute the net profits as follows: the first 5% (was 15%) for law enforcement; of the remaining balance, 25% to Cabarrus County and 75% the City of Concord. **Introduced by Representative K. Baker (R) and referred to the House ABC Committee.**

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