



North Carolina Spirits Association

Legislative Report
August 6, 2021

The General Assembly began their week shrouded in sadness as they learned of the sudden passing of their colleague, Representative Jerry Carter of Rockingham County. Representative Carter was in his second term and was well respected by his fellow legislators. In addition to the loss of Representative Carter, members also learned of the passing of Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Frances Patterson. Mrs. Patterson passed away unexpectedly over the weekend at her home.

While members and staff mourned their colleagues and friends, they also proceeded with the business of the State. On Thursday, each House Appropriations subject-matter committee met for at least a portion of the morning, and some into Thursday afternoon, to review and vote on their portion of the State budget bill. Some committees took amendments, and some deferred amendments to when the full Appropriations Committee meets next week.

On Thursday, Senior House Appropriation Chair Donnie Lambeth (R-Forsyth) announced that the House Finance Committee will meet Monday afternoon to consider the finance and tax portions of the state budget bill. Tuesday the full Appropriations Committee will meet to review the House version of the State budget bill. The meeting is expected to last most of the day – as there will likely be many amendments for the committee to consider. If approved, the budget would then be considered by the full House on Wednesday and Thursday – with the goal to approve the bill and return it to the Senate by the end of next week.

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday August 9.

BILL STATUS

House Bill 73, Temporary Defer ABC Permit Renewal Fees. The conference report was approved by the House, the bill was enrolled, and sent to the Governor for his consideration.

House Bill 366, Regulatory Reform Act of 2021. On Thursday, the House voted not to concur in the current version of the bill, so it will now be sent to a conference committee so the House and Senate can work out their differences with the bill. The bill would, among other things, allow North Carolina distillers to sell and ship spirituous liquor directly to consumers in other jurisdictions, provided that the laws of that jurisdiction allow for direct-to-consumer sales of spirituous liquor. This section would also clarify that North Carolina distillers would not be allowed to sell and ship spirituous liquor directly to consumers in jurisdictions that require reciprocity for such sales. This section would also make a clarification regarding spirituous liquor produced by a holder of a distillery permit. This section would become effective August 1, 2021 and apply to sales made on or after that date.

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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