



# NC TRAVEL NEWS

A weekly newsletter on North Carolina General Assembly news relevant to the North Carolina tourism industry

## NCTIA Workforce Project Ask

NCTIA distributed a [Tourism Education Foundation of NC](#) report to the Senate this week on the \$200,000 investment the General Assembly made in 2021 for its workforce pilot program.

The report details how 12,000 graduating seniors from Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Union County were reached by the program.

“Our program focuses on high school graduates who are not necessarily seeking a secondary education, but rather looking to immediately enter the workforce and establish an upwardly mobile career in the hospitality industry,” said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena.

NCTIA is asking the General Assembly to continue funding the program and to consider expanding the program into Outer Banks and counties outside of New Hanover County.

Visit Cabarrus President/CEO Donna Carpenter and Currituck Travel & Tourism Director Tameron Kugler wrote letters to [Senate Majority Leader Paul Newton \(R-Cabarrus\)](#), [Sen. Todd Johnson \(R-Union/Cabarrus\)](#) and [Sen. Bobby Hanig \(R-Outer Banks\)](#) asking for renewal and expansion of the program.

## Legislators File NCTIA’s Movie Set Bill



Visit Charlotte Executive Director Mike Butts reached out to NCTIA earlier in the year about a concern that many film projects in and around the Charlotte area were delayed because of a building code regulation that was requiring temporary sound stages to be housed in industrial buildings, a challenge difficult to meet in the successful Charlotte real estate market.

“This building code requirement is increasing costs, delaying productions, and is even serving as a deterrent to future projects that are considering Charlotte,” said Butts, who is working closely with the Charlotte Film Commission to come to a resolution that would allow film productions to continue. “We have lost productions to Georgia due to lack of available warehouse space in Charlotte.”

NCTIA lobbyists approached (photos left to right) [Rep. Tricia Cotham \(R-Mecklenburg\)](#), [Rep. Jason Saine \(R-Lincoln\)](#), [Rep. John Bradford \(R-Mecklenburg\)](#), and [Rep. Jeff Zenger \(R-Forsyth\)](#) and they filed [House Bill 782 \(Code Exemption for Temp. Movie Sets\)](#) on Tuesday.

House Bill 782 allows for “buildings used for temporary motion picture, television, and theater stage sets and scenery are exempt from use and occupancy classification under the North Carolina State Building Code.”

The bill becomes effective when it becomes law. House Bill 782 has been assigned to the [House Committee on Local Government - Land Use, Planning and Development](#), and if favorable, it will go to the [Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House Committee](#) before going to the House floor. The bill is subject to the crossover deadline of May 4, and NCTIA is working with the bill sponsors for a hearing.

“We appreciate Rep. Cotham taking the lead on this important legislation and we appreciate her partnering with such a powerhouse group of House legislators,” said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena. “Film and television productions mean so much to the Charlotte area and the greater tourism community.”