



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

## Running Season Coming Up



Don't let winter get you down, because before you know it, spring will be here. So lace up those running shoes, scoot on out the door, and take a run in preparation for road race season in North Carolina.

One of those races include the [18th Annual Charity Chase Half Marathon on Saturday, April 13 in Hickory.](#)

The Charity Chase Half Marathon is a rewarding run for those up for the challenge as Hickory is in the foothills of North Carolina and the race course winds around the city with elevation changes that will require some effort.

The Charity Chase 5k will take participants through the downtown area of Hickory.

For more information about this race, contact [Mandy Hildebrand](#) and/or [Sarah Davis Jones.](#)

## March Madness Includes Sports Wagering

*The following is excerpted from the Winston-Salem Journal article published on January 30. [Click to read the entire article.](#)*

Legal mobile and online sports wagering in North Carolina will debut at noon March 11.

That's 10 days before March Madness begins in earnest with Charlotte's Spectrum Center hosting first- and second-round NCAA men's tournament games. The ACC men's tournament will be held in Washington, D.C., on March 12-16.



The first sports wagers will be made on mobile devices only. In-person sports wagering will follow on a case-by-case basis as sports wagering operators meet commission and state law requirements.

The commission will allow individuals ages 21 and up to begin placing money into an account with a sports wagering operator on March 1. However, those funds won't be available for betting until March 11.

Gov. Roy Cooper signed into law on June 14, 2023, the bipartisan and divisive House Bill 347, titled "Sports Wagering/Horse Racing Wagering." The law includes a provision for a start date no later than June 15, 2024.

Ripley Rand, chairman of N.C. State Lottery Commission, said Jan. 24 that "bets on sporting events have been made for as long as those events have taken place," Rand said.

### Donations Needed for Auction

The NC Tourism Education Foundation is sponsoring its annual Silent Auction at the 2024 Visit NC Tourism Conference March 17-19 in Greenville.

[Click here to learn more about the NCTEF Silent Auction, including how to make a donation.](#)

"But this time, they will be legal, they will be done securely and fairly, and they will be made under rules designed to encourage responsible gaming," Rand said.

Tax revenue from sports betting will support a major event fund, allowing the state to recruit national sports and entertainment events to drive additional tourism, job creation and economic impact.