

NCGA Pass Hotel Safety Bills, But...

In the February 10th edition of this e-newsletter, NCTIA shared the news about [Senate Bill 53 \(Hotel Safety Issues\)](#), which had passed the Senate [28-16](#) the day prior.

This week the House did the same, kind of. They passed the [House version of the bill – House Bill 41](#) – with a more bipartisan vote of [84-31](#).

This is an unusual legislative move in the General Assembly as the rules require that the two chambers pass the same bill number. In other words, the Senate and the House need to pass either the Senate or House version, but not both.

NCTIA lobbyist Skye David said Rep. John Bradford (R-Mecklenburg) told his legislative colleagues during the House debate that both chambers were working out final language to ensure that a bill is enacted this year.

NCTIA supports the bill, because it clears up for hoteliers that a guest is not considered a renter unless a stay exceeds 90 consecutive days.

NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena said the bill will help hoteliers avoid costly legal fees to evict a disruptive guest.

Sen Berger: No Need to Change Calendar Law

You can set your, well, calendar to this every other year happening:

The House passes a handful of school calendar flexibility bills to the Senate and the upper chamber sits on them in the Senate Rules Committee until the biennium adjourns.

That's right. NCTIA expects the Senate to wisely quash the House's bills so that summer tourism in August can continue to thrive.



[Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger \(R-Rockingham/Guilford\)](#) (photo) reiterated the Senate's opposition to upending the current school calendar law when he told reporters this week that he doesn't "see where there's a need to change the calendar law, except maybe to beef up the enforcement mechanisms for local systems that ignore the law."

The enforcement reference by the Senate leader was aimed at school districts openly breaking the 2004 school calendar law.

"We appreciate Senator Berger and the lawmakers who are looking out for families, small businesses, and our public schools that rely on our success for their taxpayer funding," said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena. "If our \$27 billion industry is not successful, then thousands of families are without income, and that means fewer dollars for classrooms across the state."

Chelena's point was echoed by [NCTIA lobbyist Brian Lewis this week when he was interviewed by The Center Square](#).

"Our position is that we are the second largest industry in North Carolina" behind agriculture, said Lewis. "We're a \$27 billion operation, and there are jobs that are created and taxes that are created."

Lewis pointed out the importance of June, July and August to summer tourism and said it is "the foundation of our tourism industry ... so to jeopardize that just befuddles us." Lewis also said that North Carolina's industry has nearly doubled in size since the current school calendar law was enacted in 2004. .