

NC Ranked #1 for Business (Again)

North Carolina is America's Top State for Business in CNBC's annual competitiveness study.

It is the second consecutive year at the top for North Carolina – a rare feat in the CNBC study, which launched in 2007.

Business and the economy in the state have been on a tear since the pandemic, and the state has scarcely looked back.

[Click to read the entire article](#) published by CNBC on Tuesday, July 11.

Governor Cooper Signs Movie Bill

Governor Roy Cooper signed [House Bill 782 \(Code Exemption for Temp. Movie Sets\)](#) on Monday and the bill is now officially law.

HB782 was sponsored by [Rep. Tricia Cotham \(R-Mecklenburg\)](#), [Rep. Jason Saine \(R-Lincoln\)](#), [Rep. John Bradford](#), and [Rep. Jeff Zenger \(R-Forsyth\)](#).

"Thank you to Governor Cooper for signing this important legislation for NCTIA and all of our destinations that benefit from having a competitive movie industry," said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena.

ABC Modernization Bill Ready to Move

The article below was excerpted from a story published in *The Reflector* on Monday, July 10. [Click to read the entire article.](#)

Lawmakers are expected to consider a slate of changes to liberalize North Carolina's notoriously strict alcohol sales system now that they are back from the July 4 holiday.

The legislation would allow local officials to decide on options to expand alcohol sales at state-operated Alcohol and Beverage Control stores to Sundays and holidays, and would allow for happy hours, alcohol deliveries, and pricing flexibilities in other venues.

Additional provisions in the 36-page bill would open up options for retailers to buy liquor at any ABC store in their county, allow ABC stores to sell gift cards, relax rules for alcohol sales on trains, and streamline the process for selling establishments that serve alcohol.

Senate Bill 527 would reverse laws adopted in the 1980s designed to curb drunken driving. The bill was vetted for information only in the House Committee on Alcoholic Beverage Control last week and is slated for further review by that committee and others.

Henderson County Republican Sen. Tim Moffitt, sponsor of SB 527, has noted that many of the changes would require approval from local governing boards, allowing officials to tailor the rules to their communities. By law, liquor must be sold at government-operated ABC stores, which are closed on Sundays, as well as New Year's, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

SB 527 would allow locals to open the stores on Sundays and all holidays except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Other significant changes would permit drink specials that are currently illegal, allowing businesses that serve alcohol to court patrons in ways they cannot. Profits and taxes from the ABC stores feed local government coffers, suggesting the changes could boost revenues in some municipalities.

North Carolina is among 17 states that control sales of distilled spirits through government agencies at the wholesale level, according to the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association.

This is a developing story on an issue supported by NCTIA. Follow [NCTIA on Twitter](#) for daily updates on SB527.

