

NC Tourism & Inflation



The following article was excerpted from the NC State University College of Natural Resources News on June 9, 2022. [Click here to read the entire article.](#)

With only half of Americans comfortable with air travel due to the pandemic, North Carolina has an opportunity to capitalize on the heightened travel demand, according to NCSU Professor Whitney Knollenberg, whose research focuses on sustainable tourism development.

“Most people aren’t comfortable with international travel yet so they’re looking for road trips,” Knollenberg said.

North Carolina, which ranks fifth for domestic visitation, already serves as a go-to destination for travelers located within a day’s drive.

In fact, most of last year’s 44.4 million visitors originated from within the state and from South Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Texas.

Esports Industry Grants Available

The NC Department of Commerce is offering financial rebates up to 25% of qualified production expenses for Esports events held in the state.



“With our outstanding convention centers and arenas throughout the state, Esports hubs in vibrant cities, and our engaged, active gaming community, North Carolina provides the perfect place for your next epic event,” according to the [NC Department of Commerce website](#).

To qualify for a grant, an Esports production must spend at least \$150,000 directly in the state per event and grants are up to \$5 million in a fiscal year, which runs July 1- June 30.

Rep. [Jason Saine \(R-Lincoln\)](#), who is a friend to NCTIA, was the leading proponent for inclusion of this grant funding in the state budget in 2021.

Find more information on the Esports grant program at the [SportsNC website](#).

Elevator Bill Will Protect NC Visitors

Elevators inside short-term rentals homes in North Carolina will have to include life-saving space guards if [House Bill 619 \(Weston’s Law\)](#) passes the General Assembly this short session.

The bill passed the [Senate Commerce and Insurance Committee](#) on Tuesday and the [Senate Rules Committee](#) on Wednesday. The measure is expected to be on the Senate floor next week. NCTIA lobbyists Skye David and Brian Lewis are working closely with [Sen. Todd Johnson \(R-Union\)](#) to enact a balanced law that protects visitors, especially children.

Elevators that do not have more than a four inch gap between the exterior and interior door will not have to include space guards. Space guards usually cost around \$150.

The [legislation is a response to last summer's death of 7-year-old Weston Androw](#), an Ohio boy who was trapped between the elevator car and elevator shaft. The Androw family was vacationing in Corolla.

“We appreciate Senator Johnson for working with NCTIA lobbyists on this bill,” said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena. “The North Carolina tourism industry is dedicated to providing a fun, relaxing, and safe experience for our visitors.”