



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

Budget Target Date Now June 30

Budget writers indicated to NCTIA this week that a final budget is now set for June 30, two weeks later than initially set by Senate and House leaders.

Budget writers at the subcommittee level chairs (Education, Transportation, Agriculture, etc.) were given spending caps on Thursday and “spending negotiations are expected to move into a higher gear this coming week,” said NCTIA lobbyist Skye David.

NCTIA is asking for renewed funding for its workforce development program in the greater Charlotte area, as well as continued support for downtown revitalization projects, film grants, and more.

Movie Bill Update

NCTIA lobbyists continued conversations this week with Sen. Todd Johnson (R-Union/Cabarrus) about House Bill 782 (Code Exemption for Temp. Movie Sets), an NCTIA bill that came over to the Senate earlier this month from the House.

The Senate Commerce Committee Chair is attempting to get the bill folded into an omnibus regulatory reform bill being considered in the Senate in the coming weeks.

Sports Wagering Looks Like a Safe Bet

House Bill 347 (Sports Wagering) easily passed the Senate Finance Committee, Senate Rules Committee,

and Senate floor this week. The final vote was 37-11 with a handful of Democrats and Republicans in opposition.



The bill sponsors are Representatives Jason Saine (R-Lincoln), John Bell (R-Wayne), Zack Hawkins (D-Durham), and Ashton Clemmons (D-Guilford).

The legislation, with changes made by the Senate, has been forwarded to the House, where it already passed by a 64-45 bipartisan vote in March. The House can either vote to concur with the Senate’s changes or vote to not concur, which sets up a conference committee that will work out differences.

Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) told WRAL on Wednesday that the House would vote to not concur. He said the House wanted to add some other wagering provisions that are in other pieces of legislation floating around the General Assembly.

However, on Thursday, the Speaker walked back that proclamation and declared the House would agree to the Senate’s version. That final vote is expected this coming week in the lower chamber.

Governor Roy Cooper has indicated support for sports wagering legislation and is expected to sign the bill into law.

The bill allows North Carolinians over the age of 21 to place bets online on professional, college, and amateur sports. Betting middle school athletics is disallowed under the bill. Revenue will go to the State General Fund and specific projects (mainly university athletics) listed in the legislation. The bill would go into effect on January 8, 2024.

“We are appreciative of the bipartisan vote this week in the Senate, the collaborative work across the two chambers, and we look forward to the financial opportunities this legislation will bring to North Carolina,” said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena. “Our college and professional athletic programs will be enhanced by this legislation and will allow North Carolina sports tourism to compete with other states.”

Follow NCTIA on Twitter @NCIndustry for updates next week on HB347.