

## NCTIA Meets with Sen Todd Johnson



NCTIA lobbyists Skye David and Brian Lewis met with Sen. Todd Johnson (R-Union/Cabarrus) on

Tuesday to discuss House Bill 782 (Code Exemption for Temp. Movie Sets), an NCTIA bill that came over to the Senate earlier this month from the House.

Sen. Johnson is a co-chair of the Senate Commerce and Insurance Committee, where the bill is likely to be heard in the upper chamber.

HB782 is sponsored by Rep. Tricia Cotham (R-Mecklenburg), Rep. Jason Saine (R-Lincoln), Rep. John Bradford (R-Mecklenburg), and Rep. Jeff Zenger (R-Forsyth).

David and Lewis walked Sen. Johnson through the bill and discussed film and TV projects the Charlotte area was in risk of losing if the bill is not enacted.

Sen. Johnson expressed support for the legislation and mapped out a couple paths the bill could take as the Senate enters into the final stretch of the legislative session.

## Sports Wagering Moving in Senate

Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger (R-Rockingham/Guilford) announced on Thursday the Senate would take up House Bill 347 (Sports Wagering) next week.



The legislation, which is supported by NCTIA, passed the House by a 64-45 bipartisan vote on March 29. Bill sponsors are Representatives Jason Saine (R-Lincoln), John Bell (R-Wayne), Zack Hawkins (D-Durham), and Ashton Clemmons (D-Guilford).

The bill allows North Carolinians over the age of 21 to place bets online on professional, college, and amateur sports. Betting on high school and middle school athletics is disallowed under the bill.

The state would collect a 14% tax on wagering revenue, minus winnings and other expenses.

HB347 will be heard in Senate committees this coming week and could be on the Senate floor by Thursday, however it could extend into the following week. No official timeline has been given by committee chairs or Senate leadership.

The Senate has already shown that they can pass a sports wagering bill – as they did comfortably in the 2021-2022 biennium – but it remains to be seen if upper chamber will agree with the alterations the House made earlier in the legislative to attract votes. Both chambers must agree on exact language for the bill to be forwarded to Governor Roy Cooper.

“We are hopeful that legislators will find common ground and legislation will be enacted this legislative session.,” said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena. “Sports wagering will put North Carolina on a competitive playing field with surrounding states and will bring revenue to our state.”

At a time when the veto and legislative supermajorities are in the news recently, NCTIA lobbyists report that Governor Cooper has already indicated that he is in favor of sports wagering legislation and will likely sign a bill into law and a supermajority is unnecessary for enactment.

For updates on this legislation throughout next week, follow NCTIA on Twitter @NCIndustry.