

NCTIA on Visit NC Legislative Panel



NCTIA lobbyist Brian Lewis is once again serving on the Visit NC Legislative Update panel with fellow lobbyists from organizations representing hospitality interests at the General Assembly.

The hourlong Visit NC Legislative Update is scheduled for Monday, March 18 at 4:15PM and is part of the Visit NC Tourism Conference held in Greenville from March 17-19.

The segment will be followed by a 5:15PM "Happy Hour and Networking Reception". [Click to review the agenda for the Visit NC Tourism Conference.](#)

Panelists will discuss issues affecting the tourism industry, including school calendar, occupancy tax, sports wagering, alcohol modernization, and more. Moderator Chris Cavanaugh, who serves on the NCTIA Board of Directors, will also take questions for the panelists from the audience.

[Click here for more information on the Visit NC Tourism Conference.](#)

Wilkes School Board Reverses, Will Follow Law

The following is excerpted from the Wilkes Journal-Patriot article published on February 6. [Click to read the entire article.](#)

The Wilkes County Board of Education on Monday approved a 2024-25 academic calendar that complies with a state law limiting when the school year starts and ends instead of an alternative calendar defying these limits.

Four of the five board members said they would vote for the alternative calendar after the two options were presented at their Jan. 8 meeting. Since then, the board learned about potential legal consequences if they didn't follow a 2004 state law requiring that classes start no earlier than the Monday closest to Aug. 26 and end no later than the Friday closest to June 11.

The calendar approved in a 4-0 vote (with school board member Hardin Kennedy absent) Monday complies with the law by starting classes Aug. 26 and ending May 30, similar to the 2023-24 calendar. The alternative calendar had classes starting Aug. 15 and ending May 19.

Rudy Holbrook, chairman of the Wilkes school board, said soon after the meeting Monday that Sen. Eddie Settle (R-Wilkes) told him that other state senators said legal action would be taken when school boards defied the 2004 law. Holbrook said Settle told him this included legal action against school board members personally.

Settle said Tuesday that he was referring to comments on social media about school boards that violate the calendar law, plus the Orange County school board's refusal to comply with the 2023 "Parents Bill of Rights" law. Settle said he supports changing state law to give local school districts the calendar flexibility they want.

Sen. Jim Perry (R-Lenoir) stated in a post on X, "School board members take an oath to uphold our state Constitution, and state laws. There must be consequence for breaking laws, or moral hazard will rule the day. There would be no law and order or safety and security in our society without consequences." He said the General Assembly would address "this lawless behavior" of school boards during the short session, which starts in April.

U.S. Rep. Dan Bishop, lone Republican running for N.C. attorney general, said on X, "After I'm sworn in as AG, local elected officials who think they're above the law are going to find out differently."

In the current school year, 15 school districts have calendars defying the state law requiring that classes start no earlier than the Monday closest to Aug. 26 and end no later than the Friday closest to June 11.