



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

Hotel Safety Bill on Gov's Desk

Senate Bill 53 (Hotel Safety Issues) passed the House on Tuesday with a bipartisan 83-29 vote. The bill, which NCTIA supports, landed on Governor Roy Cooper's desk the following day.

The bill is sponsored by Senators Vickie Sawyer (R-Iredell/Mecklenburg), Brad Overcash (R-Gaston), and Tim Moffitt (R-Henderson/Polk/Rutherford).

While Governor Cooper vetoed similar legislation last biennium, but the bipartisan vote on the bill this session may be enough to let the bill become law.

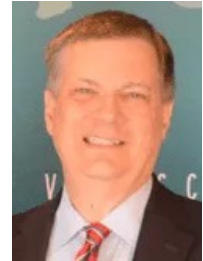
"A successful veto override vote would be the first of Governor Cooper's administration," said NCTIA lobbyist Skye David. "And many believe that once the General Assembly overrides one veto, the flood gates will open up for other veto overrides."

NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena said he hopes Governor Cooper will sign the bill into law, but he'll be satisfied if he allows it to become law without a signature. "This is a balanced bill that will protect hoteliers and their guests," he said.

David said Governor Cooper has until March 18 to make a decision on the bill.

Chris Cavanaugh in 'Winner's Circle'

Visit NC welcomed its newest inductees into Visit NC's Winners Circle at the annual Visit NC Tourism Conference in Asheville, joining nearly 60 members honored since it debuted in 2004. Those inductees include Vince Chelena, Dana Clark, and Harris Prevost.



The award recognizes significant and continuing contributions to the growth and success of North Carolina's tourism industry. One of those inductees was Chris Cavanaugh, founder and president of Magellan Strategy Group.

"Chris has been working in the tourism industry for nearly three decades, including time as the vice president of marketing for The Biltmore Company," said Chelena. "NCTIA is proud to partner with Chris and his company (Magellan) on projects of all sizes, both rural and urban; and historic, natural and cultural attractions."

Cavanaugh has also served as a member and chair of the N.C. Travel & Tourism Board and as chairman of the Buncombe County Tourism Authority.

NCTIA Takes Stage at 365 Conference



NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena (left photo) and lobbyist Brian Lewis (right photo) spoke at the Visit NC Tourism Conference at the Omni Grove Park Inn this week.

On Wednesday, Chelena presented to conference attendees about NCTIA's efforts regarding workforce development and addressing the staffing needs of the hospitality industry. The day before, Lewis joined a panel of lobbyists for a legislative update on issues in the General Assembly affecting the tourism industry, including school calendar, occupancy tax, sports wagering, alcohol modernization, and more.

"It was great to have NCTIA play such a substantive and visible role at the Visit NC conference," said Chelena. "We appreciate the opportunity given to NCTIA by Visit NC."