



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

Visit NC Conference in Greenville in '24

Visit Greenville announced this week it will host the 2024 Visit North Carolina Tourism Conference on March 17 - 19, 2024 at the Greenville Convention Center.



"We are excited to have North Carolina's premier travel and tourism event here in Greenville again next year," stated

Andrew Schmidt, President and CEO of Visit Greenville. "Hosting provides us the opportunity to showcase the immense growth happening in Greenville-Pitt County to our statewide tourism leaders and regional media partners."

Schmidt also serves as the President of the NCTIA Board of Directors.

"We are thrilled to be returning to Greenville for the Visit North Carolina Tourism Conference," stated Wit Tuttell, Director of Visit North Carolina. "I love going to Greenville because you can feel the excitement throughout the community when we are in town."

Greenville hosted the Visit North Carolina Tourism Conference for the first time in 2017.

Governor Releases Budget, House Up Next

Governor Roy Cooper released his recommended budget for fiscal year 2023-2025 on Wednesday. It will be the last biennium budget proposed by the second term (and term limited) governor, and he is going big with a first year price tag of \$34 billion.

The spending plan includes basic functions of state government: state employee and teacher pay raises, education, health and human services, workforce development, and public safety. However, Governor Cooper's budget also asks for spending on some hot button political priorities of his, including full funding for his Leandro court remedy as well as repealing tax cuts scheduled to go in effect in the next two years.

"It's important to remember that Governor Cooper's budget proposal is just that – a proposal," said NCTIA Lobbyist Brian Lewis. "The real budget work happens in the General Assembly between House and Senate appropriation chairs."

Lewis said House budget writers are currently behind closed doors constructing a budget that will not exceed \$29.7 billion, 14% lower than Governor Cooper's proposed budget. President Pro Tem Phil Berger and Speaker Tim Moore – both Republicans – called the governor's proposed budget "reckless" and "unrealistic."

The House is expected to complete its budget by the first week in April and then the process will go to the Senate.

The upper chamber is expected to have its version of the budget complete by mid May. Then leaders in the two chambers will meet in a joint conference and negotiate a final budget deal. A conference report budget is expected by June 30, the last day of the fiscal year.

"NCTIA is engaging budget writers on our priorities for this year, including workforce development funding, tourism advertising investments, film grants, and state attractions," said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena. "We look forward to working with legislators throughout this process over the next months."

Sports Wagering on the Move

Rep. Jason Saine (R-Lincoln) filed HB347 (Sports Wagering) this week and the bill will be heard Tuesday in the House Commerce Committee and likely in Judiciary 1 the next day.

Last year's version of the bill failed by one vote on the House floor, despite support from the Panthers, Hornets, and other organizations, including NCTIA.

Follow NCTIA on Twitter for updates from committees next week.