



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

## Sports Wagering Passes House

(House Bill 347/Sports Wagering) passed the House this week by a bipartisan margin of 64-45.

The bill sponsored by Rep. Jason Saine (R-Lincoln), Rep. John Bell (R-Wayne), Rep. Zack Hawkins (D-Durham), and Rep. Ashton Clemmons (D-Guilford) survived several amendment attempts by wide margins and is now headed to the Senate, a chamber that passed similar legislation in the 2021-2022 biennium only to see it fail by one vote in the House.

Over 30 states, including Virginia and Tennessee, allow their citizens to make legal bets on sporting events.

"We appreciate the House's approval of this legislation and we look forward to success in the Senate," said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena. "If enacted, the legislation will bring revenue to North Carolina, enhance our professional sporting destinations, and bring future athletic events to our state."

Governor Roy Cooper is supportive of legalizing sports wagering in North Carolina and included revenue in his proposed budget to the General Assembly two weeks ago.

## Global Meetings Industry Day a Success!

On Thursday, NCTIA participated in Global Meetings Industry Day, an international day of advocacy showcasing the undeniable value that business meetings, trade shows, incentive travel, exhibitions, conferences and conventions provide to people, businesses, and the communities they serve.

Cities around the world, including Charlotte, participated in the annual event, and this year's GMID Carolinas event was held at Bank of America Stadium.

"Following years of canceled in-person meetings because of the global pandemic, the industry came together this week to celebrate tourism, to highlight the importance of meetings, and to tell the world that our industry is back and ready to serve visitors, businesses, conferences, and conventions," said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena.



*NCTIA Board President Andrew Schmidt spoke at GMID on Thursday.*



Chelena reports that attendees at the event on Thursday included meeting and convention planners as well as representatives from North Carolina businesses, trade associations, non-profits, and various levels of government.

"We were also excited to include a job fair at this year's event that is connecting North Carolina high school students with employment, apprenticeship programs, and classroom credit in our expanding hospitality industry," said Chelena.

"Students are seeing the bright future our industry can offer and we look forward to watching hospitality careers blossom."

The job fair (right photo) was sponsored by the Tourism Education Foundation of NC with support from the General Assembly.

