



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

## NCTIA Meets with Sen Todd Johnson



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

May 16 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 Moves in Senate

House Bill 347 (Sports Wagering) passed the Senate Commerce Committee this week and is likely to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee and on the Senate floor over the two weeks.



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. Revenue will go to the State and specific projects (mainly university athletics) listed in the legislation.

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 House will agree with the alterations the Senate made in committee this week. Both chambers must agree on exact language for the bill to be forwarded to Governor Roy Cooper.

Rep. Saine (photo) said he was made aware of the changes the Senate was making and he will take a final Senate version of the bill to his House colleagues for discussion before voting again.



“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.