



NC TRAVEL NEWS

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

Greenville Chamber Visits Legislature



Greenville Chamber of Commerce with House Majority Leader John Bell.

NCTIA Board President Andrew Schmidt was part of a Greenville Chamber of Commerce delegation visiting the General Assembly on Wednesday, May 3.

Schmidt and his colleagues met with Pitt County area legislators Sen. Kandie Smith, Sen. Jim Perry, Rep. Gloristine Brown, Rep. Tim Reeder, and House Majority Leader John Bell.

The Visit Greenville Executive Director took the opportunity to highlight the importance of tourism priorities this legislative session: support for the integrity of the occupancy tax, additional funding for state travel and tourism office, and funding for workforce development in the hospitality industry.

Other topics at the legislative meetings included the ECU School of Medicine Building Project, affordable child care and its relation to successful economic development, health insurance, broadband funding, NCDOT projects, and funding for Greenville Town Common Bulkhead Project.

NCTIA Movie Bill Now in Senate

With the crossover deadline (May 4) bearing down, NCTIA was able to get House Bill 782 (Code Exemption for Temp. Movie Sets) unanimously approved by the House Rules Committee and the entire House membership on Wednesday. The bill is now in the Senate.

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). (clockwise photo)



“At a time when over a hundred bills were vying to get passed by the House and Senate before the crossover deadline, we were pleased that our legislation was a made a priority by our legislative sponsors and the House leadership,” said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena. “This bill will make our state competitive as we attempt to attract and retain film and tv projects – projects that provide good paying jobs in communities across North Carolina.”

Chelena cited cases from Charlotte in which productions were paused or completely shut down because of industrial building code requirements applied to film and tv productions filming in certain buildings. HB 782 would fix this and reads, “buildings used for temporary motion picture, television, and theater stage sets and scenery are exempt from use and occupancy classification under the North Carolina State Building Code.”



NCTIA lobbyist Brian Lewis communicated to Sen. Todd Johnson (R-Union/Cabarrus) (left photo) on Wednesday night to inform him of the bill and requested a meeting for Tuesday, May 9. Sen. Johnson co-chairs the Senate Commerce and Insurance Committee, the committee the bill is likely to get assigned.