



# ABC & NEWS

A weekly newsletter on North Carolina policy and political news relevant to the North Carolina's ABC Boards

## Association Statement on Recent Riots



Peaceful protests across North Carolina were hijacked this past week by a few individuals promoting mayhem and destruction instead of focusing on the senseless killing of George Floyd.

North Carolina's ABC stores were not immune from the vandalism. An ABC store's glass windows were shattered in Jamestown on Sunday night before five people entered the building and stole multiple bottles of liquor.

"When violence and looting starts, ABC stores are usually targeted first," said NC Association of ABC Boards President Miles Davis, in an email message sent to members on Monday encouraging ABC stores to close down if rioting was expected in a community.

"While I admire anyone willing to stand for change, I am opposed to violence," wrote Davis. "I am opposed to violence against people, their property, and I am opposed to violence against a young man splayed out on his stomach as a knee to the back cuts off his oxygen."

## Governor Considers Opening Bars Early



As Governor Roy Cooper considers what to do with [House Bill 536 \(Temp Outdoor Restaurants for Outdoor Seating\)](#) – sign it, veto it, or allow it to become law without his signature – he indicated in a press conference on Thursday that he was considering letting bars (private clubs) open prior than the expiration of his Phase 2 executive order.

"We're analyzing whether bars and gyms should be able to open, and I will say that there's a possibility that even before we get to the timeline of Phase 3 that we might want to do a Phase 2.5 or look at some of these additional items that might boost our economy but that we would feel safe about not boosting the number of COVID-19 enough to overwhelm our hospitals," Cooper said on Thursday.

Reporters pressed the governor on the possibility of relaxing the order and he replied with a familiar answer: "We're going to let the science and the data drive decisions here."

HB536 allows outdoor seating that is less than 50% of the indoor seating capacity of the bar or 100 patrons, whichever is less.

The bill would also allow restaurants to set up temporary outdoor spaces to serve customers in the same way. The bill passed [42-5](#) in the Senate and in the House by a vote of [65-53](#). The House appears to have enough votes to sustain a veto.

Governor Cooper has until Sunday to make a decision on the bill and seems to have taken objection to the bill's creep into his executive power to open and close businesses in a time of emergency. As reported in last week's e-newsletter, the NC Association of ABC Boards has taken no position on HB536 but is monitoring it closely as it affects North Carolina ABC Boards.