



# ABC &-NEWS

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

## Governor Vetos 2 of 4 Reopen Bills

A week after vetoing [House Bill 536 \(Temp Outdoor Restaurants for Outdoor Seating\)](#), Governor Roy Cooper vetoed [House Bill 594 \(Temp Open Gyms/Health Clubs/Fitness Ctrs\)](#).

That's two bills vetoed and two more bills – [House Bill 258 \(Open Amusement Parks/Arcades/Venues\)](#) and [Senate Bill 599 \(Open Skating Rinks/Bowling Alleys\)](#) – that are likely to suffer the same fate.

The General Assembly made a run at overriding HB594 on Wednesday but failed to attract enough Democrats to vote with Republicans.

After a few Democrats made overtures that they would join Republicans on a vote to reopen gyms and fitness centers if Republicans dropped language that would require the Governor to seek approval from the other elected executive branch officeholders (Labor, Insurance, DPI, Secretary of State, etc.) in order to shut down parts of the economy in an emergency order, Republicans brought forward [House Bill 806 \(Open Exercise & Fitness Facilities\)](#).

The bill includes no restraints on the governor's ability to shut down parts of the North Carolina economy in an emergency order.

## Executive Order Affects NC ABC Boards & Stores

Governor Roy Cooper announced Wednesday he is extending Phase 2 of the COVID-19 shutdown while announcing a new executive order ([EO 147](#)) that mandates a statewide mask/face covering requirement, something that affects North Carolina's ABC Boards and the stores they govern.

"The Association wanted to provide an easy-to-read reference for the convenience of local stores," said NC Association of ABC Boards President Miles Davis. "It is imperative that North Carolina's ABC Boards follow the executive order, not just to protect our consumers, but to help North Carolina turn these awful COVID-10 diagnosis numbers around."

This document will only address the portions of the EO that apply to ABC Stores. These guidelines are effective Friday June 26th, 2020 at 5pm and will be in effect until July 17th.

### Face Coverings in Retail Businesses (Which Includes ABC Stores)

- Employees at an ABC store must wear face coverings when within 6 feet of another person.
- Retail Businesses must have all customers wear face coverings when they are inside the establishment and may be within 6 feet of another person, unless the customer states that an exception applies.

### Enforcement of Face Coverings

- Citations for noncompliance shall be written only to businesses or organizations that fail to enforce the requirement to wear face coverings.
- Managers of ABC Stores are entitled to rely on their customers statements about whether or not they are exempted from the face covering requirements, and stores do not violate the Executive Order if they rely on such statements.

### Exemptions

Below is a partial list of exemptions relevant to ABC Boards. For a full list of exemptions, [visit this link](#) to read the full order.

- Should not wear a Face Covering due to any medical or behavioral condition or disability.
- Is seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired in a way that requires the mouth to be visible.
- Is temporarily removing his or her face covering to secure government or medical services or for identification purposes.