

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 1717*

Short Title: Modernization of the State ABC System. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives R. Warren, Bell, Lucas (Primary Sponsors); Harrison, Hill, Hughes, Spear, and Tarleton.

Referred to: Alcoholic Beverage Control, if favorable, State Government/State Personnel.

May 17, 2010

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO MODERNIZE THE NORTH CAROLINA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
3 CONTROL SYSTEM, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT STUDY COMMITTEE
4 ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 18B-101 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 18B-101. Definitions.

8 As used in this Chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:

9 ...

10 (6f) "Finance officer" means the local board employee, other than a general
11 manager, that is responsible for keeping the accounts of the local board,
12 receiving and depositing receipts, disbursing funds, and any other duties
13 assigned by the local board or Commission.

14 (7) "Fortified wine" means any wine, of more than sixteen percent (16%) and no
15 more than twenty-four percent (24%) alcohol by volume, made by
16 fermentation from grapes, fruits, berries, rice, or honey; or by the addition of
17 pure cane, beet, or dextrose sugar; or by the addition of pure brandy from the
18 same type of grape, fruit, berry, rice, or honey that is contained in the base
19 wine and produced in accordance with the regulations of the United States.

20 (7d) "General manager" means the local board employee that is responsible for
21 the oversight of daily operations of the ABC system and any other duties
22 assigned by the local board or Commission. The board may designate only
23 one employee to be the general manager.

24 ~~(7a)~~(7g) "Historic ABC establishment" means a restaurant or hotel that meets all
25 of the following requirements:

- 26 a. Is on the national register of historic places or located within a State
27 historic district.
- 28 b. Is a property designed to attract local, State, national, and
29 international tourists located on a State Route (SR) and with a
30 property line located within 1.5 miles of the intersection of a
31 designated North Carolina scenic byway as defined in
32 G.S. 136-18(31).
- 33 c. Is located within 15 miles of a national scenic highway.
- 34 d. Is located in a county in which the on-premises sale of malt
35 beverages or unfortified wine is authorized in two or more cities in
36 the county.



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1 ~~(7b)~~(7k) "Keg" means a portable container designed to hold and dispense 7.75
2 gallons or more of malt beverage.

3 "

4 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 18B-203(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

5 **"§ 18B-203. Powers and duties of the Commission.**

6 (a) Powers. – The Commission shall have authority to:

7 ...

8 (20) Promulgate rules to establish performance standards for local boards.
9 Performance standards established pursuant to this subdivision shall include,
10 but not be limited to, standards that address enforcement of ABC laws, store
11 appearance, operating efficiency, and customer service.

12 (21) Promulgate rules to establish mandatory training requirements for local
13 board members, managers, and employees."

14 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 18B-501 reads as rewritten:

15 **"§ 18B-501. Local ABC officers.**

16 (a) Appointment. – Except as provided in subsection (f), each local board shall hire one
17 or more ABC enforcement officers. Local ABC enforcement officers shall be designated as
18 "ABC Officers". The local board may designate one officer as the chief ABC officer for that
19 board.

20 (b) Subject Matter Jurisdiction. – After taking the oath prescribed for a peace officer, a
21 local ABC officer may arrest and take other investigatory and enforcement actions for any
22 criminal offense; however, the primary responsibility of a local ABC officer is enforcement of
23 the ABC laws and Article 5 of Chapter 90 (The Controlled Substances Act).

24 (c) Territorial Jurisdiction. – A local ABC officer has jurisdiction anywhere in the
25 county in which he is employed except that a city ABC officer's territorial jurisdiction is
26 subject to any limitation included in any local act governing that city ABC system. A local
27 ABC officer may pursue outside his normal territorial jurisdiction anyone who commits an
28 offense within that jurisdiction, as provided in G.S. 15A-402(d).

29 (d) Assisting Other Local Agencies. – The local ABC officers employed by a local
30 board shall constitute a "law-enforcement agency" for purposes of G.S. 160A-288, and a local
31 board shall have the same authority as a city or county governing body to approve cooperation
32 between law-enforcement agencies under that section.

33 (e) Assisting State and Federal Enforcement. – A local ABC officer may assist State
34 and federal law-enforcement agencies in the investigation of criminal offenses in North
35 Carolina, under the following conditions:

36 (1) The local board employing the officer has adopted a resolution approving
37 such assistance and stating the conditions under which it may be provided;

38 (2) The State or federal agency has made a written request for assistance from
39 that local board, either for a particular investigation or for any investigation
40 that might require assistance within a certain period of time;

41 (3) The local ABC officer is supervised by someone in the requesting agency;
42 and

43 (4) As soon as practical after the assistance begins, an acknowledgement of the
44 action is placed in the records of the local board.

45 A local ABC officer shall have territorial jurisdiction throughout North Carolina while
46 assisting a State or federal agency under this section. While providing that assistance the officer
47 shall continue to be considered an employee of the local board for purposes of salary, worker's
48 compensation, and other benefits, unless a different arrangement is negotiated between the
49 local board and the requesting agency.

50 (f) Contracts with Other Agencies. – ~~Instead of of, or in addition to,~~ hiring local ABC
51 officers, a local board may contract ~~to pay its enforcement funds to~~ with a sheriff's department,

1 city police department, or other local law-enforcement agency for enforcement of the ABC
2 laws within the law-enforcement agency's territorial jurisdiction. Enforcement agreements may
3 be made with more than one agency at the same time. When such a contract for enforcement
4 exists, ~~the those~~ officers of the contracting law-enforcement agency who have been designated
5 by the agency head shall have the same authority to inspect under G.S. 18B-502 that an ABC
6 officer employed by that local board would ~~have~~ have once the designated officers of the
7 contracting law enforcement agency have been certified by the chief ABC officer as having
8 been trained. In order to be certified, the designated officers shall receive the same training in
9 the enforcement of ABC laws as is provided to local ABC officers. If a city located in two or
10 more counties approves the sale of some type of alcoholic beverage pursuant to the provisions
11 of G.S. 18B-600(e4), and there are no local ABC boards established in the city and one of the
12 counties in which the city is located, the local ABC board of any county in which the city is
13 located may enter into an enforcement agreement with the city's police department for
14 enforcement of the ABC laws within the entire city, including that portion of the city located in
15 the county of the ABC board entering into the enforcement agreement.

16 (f1) ABC Enforcement in Absence of Contract. – In those cities and counties in which
17 no contract exists between the local board and a local law enforcement agency for enforcement
18 of ABC laws, officers of a local law enforcement agency shall have the same authority to
19 inspect under G.S. 18B-502 that an ABC officer employed by that board would have, provided:

- 20 (1) The local law enforcement agency head or sheriff has designated one or
21 more officers of the agency to conduct inspections under G.S. 18B-502.
- 22 (2) The designated officers of the law enforcement agency have been certified
23 by the chief ABC officer as having been trained.
- 24 (3) The designated officers have received the same training in the enforcement
25 of ABC laws as that provided to local ABC officers.

26 (f2) Accountability; Enforcement Reports. – To ensure accountability to the appointing
27 authority and the Commission, every local board's ABC officers and those law enforcement
28 agencies subject to an enforcement agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (f1) of this
29 section shall report to the local board, by the fifth business day of each month, on a form
30 developed by the Commission, the following:

- 31 (1) The number of arrests made for ABC law, Controlled Substance Act, or
32 other violations, by category, at ABC permitted outlets.
- 33 (2) The number of arrests made for ABC law, Controlled Substance Act, or
34 other violations, by category, at other locations.
- 35 (3) The number of agencies assisted with ABC law or controlled substance
36 related matters.
- 37 (4) The number of alcohol education and responsible server programs presented.

38 The local board shall submit a copy of the enforcement report to the appointing authority
39 and the Commission not later than five business days after receipt of the enforcement report by
40 the local board. The Commission shall publish this information, by local board and
41 enforcement agency, on a public Internet Web site maintained by the Commission.

42 (g) Discharge. – Local ABC officers and officers of agencies which contract with local
43 boards for enforcement of the ABC laws are subject to the discharge provisions of
44 G.S. 18B-202."

45 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 18B-600(e) reads as rewritten:

46 "(e) City Mixed Beverage Elections. – A city may hold a mixed beverage election ~~only~~
47 if:if the city has at least 500 registered voters.

- 48 (1) ~~The city has at least 500 registered voters; and~~
- 49 (2) ~~Either:~~
 - 50 a. ~~The city already operates a city ABC store; or~~

- 1 b. A city ABC store election is to be held at the same time as the mixed
2 beverage election; or
3 e. ~~The city does not operate a city ABC store but:~~
4 1. The county operates an ABC store;
5 2. The county has already held a mixed beverage election; and
6 3. ~~The vote in the last county election was against the sale of~~
7 ~~mixed beverages."~~

8 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 18B-700 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

9 "(a1) Mission. – The mission of local ABC boards and their employees shall be to
10 responsibly serve their localities by controlling the sale of spirituous liquor and promoting
11 customer-friendly, modern, and efficient stores."

12 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 18B-700(g) reads as rewritten:

13 "(g) ~~Salary-Compensation of Board Members.~~ – A local board member ~~may be~~
14 compensated as determined by the appointing authority shall receive compensation in an
15 amount not to exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per board meeting unless a different
16 level of monetary compensation is approved by the appointing authority. If a different level is
17 approved by the appointing authority, the appointing authority shall notify the Commission of
18 the approved level of compensation in writing. No local board member shall receive any
19 nonmonetary compensation or benefits unless specifically authorized by this section."

20 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 18B-700 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

21 "(g1) Compensation of General Managers of Local Boards. – The salary authorized for
22 the general manager of a local board shall not exceed the salary authorized by the General
23 Assembly for the clerk of superior court of the county in which the appointing authority was
24 originally incorporated unless such compensation is otherwise approved by the appointing
25 authority. The local board shall provide the appointing authority's written confirmation of such
26 approval to the Commission. The general manager of a local board may receive any other
27 benefits to which all employees of the local board are entitled. The salary authorized for other
28 employees of a local board may not exceed that of the general manager."

29 **SECTION 8.** G.S. 18B-700 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

30 "(g2) Travel Allowance and Per Diem Rates. – Approved travel on official business by
31 the members and employees of local boards shall be reimbursed pursuant to G.S. 138-6 unless
32 the local board adopts a travel policy that conforms to the travel policy of the appointing
33 authority and such policy is approved by the appointing authority. The local board shall provide
34 the appointing authority's written confirmation of such approval to the Commission."

35 **SECTION 9.** G.S. 18B-700(i) reads as rewritten:

36 "(i) Bond. – Each local board member and the employees designated as the general
37 manager or finance officer of the local board shall be bonded in an amount not less than five
38 thousand dollars (\$5,000), one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) secured by a corporate
39 surety, for the faithful performance of his duties. A public employees' blanket position bond in
40 the required amount satisfies the requirements of this subsection. The bond shall be payable to
41 the local board and shall be approved by the appointing authority for the local board. The
42 appointing authority may exempt from this bond requirement any board member who does not
43 handle board funds, and it may also increase the amount of the bond required for any member
44 or employee who does handle handles board funds."

45 **SECTION 10.** G.S. 18B-700 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

46 "(k) Nepotism. – Members of an immediate family shall not be employed within the
47 local board if such employment will result in one member of the immediate family supervising
48 another member of the immediate family, or if one member of the immediate family will
49 occupy a position which has influence over another member's employment, promotion, salary
50 administration, or other related management or personnel considerations. This subsection
51 applies to local board members and employees.

1 For the purpose of this subsection, the term immediate family includes wife, husband,
2 mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter, grandmother, grandfather, grandson, and
3 granddaughter. Also included are the step-, half-, and in-law relationships. It also includes other
4 people living in the same household, who share a relationship comparable to immediate family
5 members, if either occupies a position which requires influence over the other's employment,
6 promotion, salary administration, or other related management or personnel considerations."

7 **SECTION 11.** G.S. 18B-700 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

8 "(l) Local Acts. – Notwithstanding the provisions of any local act, this section applies to
9 all local boards."

10 **SECTION 12.** G.S. 18B-701 reads as rewritten:

11 "**§ 18B-701. Powers and duties of local ABC boards.**

12 (a) Powers. – A local board shall have authority to:

- 13 (1) Buy, sell, transport, and possess alcoholic beverages as necessary for the
14 operation of its ABC stores;
- 15 (2) Adopt rules for its ABC system, subject to the approval of the Commission;
- 16 (3) Hire and fire employees for the ABC system;
- 17 (4) Designate one employee as manager of the ABC system and determine his
18 responsibilities;
- 19 (5) Require bonds of employees as provided in the rules of the Commission;
- 20 (6) Operate ABC stores as provided in Article 8;
- 21 (7) Issue purchase-transportation permits as provided in Article 4;
- 22 (8) Employ local ABC officers or make other provision for enforcement of ABC
23 laws as provided in Article 5;
- 24 (9) Borrow money as provided in G.S. 18B-702;
- 25 (10) Buy and lease real and personal property, and receive property bequeathed
26 or given, as necessary for the operation of the ABC system;
- 27 (11) Invest surplus funds as provided in G.S. 18B-702;
- 28 (12) Dispose of property in the same manner as a city council may under Article
29 12 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes; and
- 30 (13) Perform any other activity authorized or required by the ABC law.

31 (b) Duties. – A local board shall have the duty to comply with all rules adopted by the
32 Commission pursuant to G.S. 18B and meet all standards for performance and training
33 established by the Commission pursuant to G.S. 18B-203(a)(20) and (21). Failure to comply
34 with Commission rules shall be cause for removal."

35 **SECTION 13.** G.S. 18B-702 reads as rewritten:

36 "**§ 18B-702. Financial operations of local boards.**

37 (a) Generally. – A local board may transact business as a corporate body, except as
38 limited by this section. A local board shall not be considered a public authority under
39 G.S. 159-7(b)(10).

40 (b) Budget Officer. – The general manager of the local board shall be the budget officer
41 for the local board. In the absence of a general manager, a local board may impose the duties of
42 budget officer on the chairman or any member of the local board or any other employee of the
43 board.

44 (c) Annual Balanced Budget. – Each local board shall operate under an annual balanced
45 budget administered in accordance with this section. A budget is balanced when the sum of
46 estimated gross revenues and both restricted and unrestricted funds are equal to appropriations.
47 Expenditures shall not exceed the amount of funds received or in reserve for the purpose to
48 which the funds are appropriated. It is the intent of this section that all monies received and
49 expended by a local board should be included in the budget. Therefore, notwithstanding any
50 other provision of law, no local board may expend any monies, regardless of their source

1 except in accordance with a budget adopted under this section. The budget of a local board
2 shall cover a fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30.

3 (d) Preparation and Submission of Budget and Budget Message. – Upon receipt of the
4 budget requests and revenue estimates and the financial information supplied by the finance
5 officer, the budget officer shall prepare a budget for consideration by the local board in such
6 form and detail as may have been prescribed by the budget officer or the local board. The
7 budget, together with a budget message, shall be submitted to the local board, the appointing
8 authority, and the Commission not later than June 1. The budget and budget message should,
9 but need not, be submitted at a formal meeting of the board. The budget message should
10 contain a concise explanation of the goals fixed by the budget for the budget year, should
11 explain important features of the activities anticipated in the budget, should set forth the
12 reasons for stated changes from the previous year in appropriation levels and should explain
13 any major changes in fiscal policy.

14 (e) Filing and Publication of the Budget. – On the same day the budget officer submits
15 the budget to the local board, the budget officer shall make a copy for public inspection, and it
16 shall remain available for public inspection until the budget is adopted. The budget officer shall
17 make a copy of the budget available to all news media in the county. The budget officer shall
18 also publish a statement that the budget has been submitted to the local board and is available
19 for public inspection in the office of the general manager of the local board. The statement shall
20 also give notice of the time and place of the budget hearing required by subsection (f) of this
21 section.

22 (f) Budget Hearings. – Before adopting the budget, the board shall hold a public
23 hearing at which time any persons who wish to be heard on the budget may appear.

24 (g) Adoption of Budget. – Not earlier than 10 days after the day the budget is presented
25 to the board and not later than July 1, the local board shall adopt a budget making
26 appropriations for the budget year in such sums as the board may consider sufficient and
27 proper, whether greater or less than the sums recommended in the budget. The budget shall
28 authorize all financial transactions of the local board. The budget may be in any form that the
29 board considers most efficient in enabling it to make the fiscal policy decisions embodied
30 therein, but it shall make appropriations by department, function, or project and show revenues
31 by major source. The following directions and limitations shall bind the local board in adopting
32 the budget:

33 (1) The full amount estimated by the finance officer to be required for debt
34 service during the budget year shall be appropriated.

35 (2) The full amount of any deficit in each fund shall be appropriated.

36 (3) Working capital funds set aside pursuant to G.S. 18B-805 shall be no less
37 than two weeks' average gross sales of the latest fiscal year or greater than
38 two months' average gross sales of the latest fiscal year. "Working capital"
39 means the total of cash, investments, and inventory less all unsecured
40 liabilities. Gross sales means gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic
41 beverages less distributions as defined in G.S. 18B-805(b)(2), (3), (4), and
42 (5). Any expenditure to be charged against working capital funds shall be
43 authorized by resolution of the local board, which resolution shall be deemed
44 an amendment to the budget setting up an appropriation for the object of
45 expenditure authorized. The local board may authorize the budget officer to
46 authorize expenditures from working capital funds subject to such
47 limitations and procedures as it may prescribe. Any such expenditure shall
48 be deemed an amendment and reported to the board at its next regular
49 meeting and recorded in the minutes.

50 (4) Estimated revenues shall include only those revenues reasonably expected to
51 be realized in the budget year.

1 (5) Sufficient funds to meet the amounts to be paid during the fiscal year under
2 continuing contracts previously entered into shall be appropriated unless
3 such contract reserves to the local board the right to limit or not to make
4 such appropriation.

5 (6) The sum of estimated net revenues and appropriated fund balance in each
6 fund shall be equal to appropriations in that fund. Appropriated fund balance
7 in a fund shall not exceed the sum of cash and investments minus the sum of
8 liabilities, encumbrances, and deferred revenues arising from cash receipts,
9 as those figures stand at the close of the fiscal year next preceding the budget
10 year.

11 The budget shall be entered in the minutes of the local board and within five days after
12 adoption, and copies thereof shall be filed with the finance officer, the budget officer, the
13 appointing authority, and the Commission.

14 (h) Amendments to the Budget. – Except as otherwise restricted by law, the local board
15 may amend the budget at any time after adoption, in any manner, so long as the budget, as
16 amended, continues to satisfy the requirements of this section. The local board by appropriate
17 resolution may authorize the budget officer to transfer monies from one appropriation to
18 another within the same fund subject to such limitations and procedures as it may prescribe.
19 Any such transfers shall be reported to the local board at its next regular meeting and shall be
20 entered in the minutes. Amendments to the adopted budget shall also be provided to the
21 appointing authority and the Commission.

22 (i) Interim Budget. – In case the adoption of the budget is delayed until after July 1, the
23 local board shall make interim appropriations for the purpose of paying salaries, debt service
24 payments, and the usual ordinary expenses of the local board for the interval between the
25 beginning of the budget year and the adoption of the budget. Interim appropriations so made
26 shall be charged to the proper appropriations in the adopted budget.

27 (j) Finance Officer. – The local board shall designate an employee of the board, other
28 than the general manager, to be the finance officer for the local board. The Commission, for
29 good cause shown, may allow the general manager of a board to also be the finance officer.

30 (k) Duties and Powers of the Finance Officer. – The finance officer for a local board
31 shall:

32 (1) Keep the accounts of the local board in accordance with generally accepted
33 principles of governmental accounting and the rules and regulations of the
34 Commission.

35 (2) Disburse all funds of the local board in strict compliance with this Chapter,
36 the budget, and preaudit obligations, and disbursements as required by this
37 section.

38 (3) As often as may be requested by the local board or the general manager,
39 prepare and file with the board a statement of the financial condition of the
40 local board.

41 (4) Receive and deposit all monies accruing to the local board, or supervise the
42 receipt and deposit of money by other duly authorized employees.

43 (5) Maintain all records concerning the debt and other obligations of the local
44 board, determine the amount of money that will be required for debt service
45 or the payment of other obligations during each fiscal year, and maintain all
46 funds.

47 (6) Supervise the investment of idle funds of the local board pursuant to
48 subsection (t) of this section.

49 The finance officer shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by law, by the
50 general manager, budget officer, or local board, or by rules and regulations of the Commission.

1 (l) Accounting System. – Each local board shall establish and maintain an accounting
2 system designed to show in detail its assets, liabilities, equities, revenues, and expenditures.
3 The system shall also be designed to show appropriations and estimated revenues as established
4 in the budget originally adopted and subsequently amended.

5 (m) Incurring Obligations. – No obligation may be incurred in a program, function, or
6 activity accounted for in a fund included in the budget unless the budget includes an
7 appropriation authorizing the obligation and an unencumbered balance remains in the
8 appropriation sufficient to pay in the current fiscal year the sums obligated by the transaction
9 for the current fiscal year. No obligation may be incurred for a capital project unless the budget
10 authorizing the obligation and an unencumbered balance remains in the appropriation sufficient
11 to pay the sums obligated by the transaction. If an obligation is evidenced by a contract or
12 agreement requiring the payment of money or by a purchase order for supplies and materials,
13 the contract, agreement, or purchase order shall include on its face a certificate stating that the
14 instrument has been preaudited to assure compliance with this subsection. The certificate,
15 which shall be signed by the finance officer or any deputy finance officer approved for this
16 purpose by the local board, shall take substantially the following form:

17 "This instrument has been preaudited in the manner required by G.S. 18B-702.
18

19 (Signature of finance officer)."

20 An obligation incurred in violation of this subsection is invalid and may not be enforced.
21 The finance officer shall establish procedures to assure compliance with this subsection.

22 (n) Disbursements. – When a bill, invoice, or other claim against a local board is
23 presented, the finance officer shall either approve or disapprove the necessary disbursement. If
24 the claim involves a program, function, or activity accounted for in a fund included in the
25 budget or a capital project or a grant project authorized by the budget, the finance officer may
26 approve the claim only if:

27 (1) The finance officer determines the amount to be payable; and

28 (2) The budget includes an appropriation authorizing the expenditure and either
29 (i) an encumbrance has been previously created for the transaction or (ii) an
30 unencumbered balance remains in the appropriation sufficient to pay the
31 amount to be disbursed.

32 A bill, invoice, or other claim may not be paid unless it has been approved by the finance
33 officer or, under subsection (o) of this section, by the local board. The finance officer shall
34 establish procedures to assure compliance with this subsection.

35 (o) Local Board Approval of Bills, Invoices, or Claims. – The local board may, as
36 permitted by this subsection, approve a bill, invoice, or other claim against the local board that
37 has been disapproved by the finance officer. It may not approve a claim for which no
38 appropriation appears in the budget, or for which the appropriation contains no encumbrance
39 and the unencumbered balance is less than the amount to be paid. The local board shall approve
40 payment by formal resolution stating the board's reasons for allowing the bill, invoice, or other
41 claim. The resolution shall be entered in the minutes together with the names of those voting in
42 the affirmative. The chairman of the board or some other member designated for this purpose
43 shall sign the certificate on the check or draft given in payment of the bill, invoice, or other
44 claim. If payment results in a violation of law, each member of the board voting to allow
45 payment is jointly and severally liable for the full amount of the check or draft given in
46 payment.

47 (p) Checks or Drafts Signed by Finance Officer. – Except as otherwise provided by law,
48 all checks or drafts on an official depository shall be signed by the finance officer or a properly
49 designated deputy finance officer. The chairman of the local board or general manager of the
50 local board shall countersign these checks and drafts. The Commission may waive the

1 requirements of this subsection if the board determines that the internal control procedures of
2 the unit or authority will be satisfactory in the absence of dual signatures.

3 (q) Payment of a Bill, Invoice, Salary, or Claim. – A local board may not pay a bill,
4 invoice, salary, or other claim except by a check or draft on an official depository or by a bank
5 wire transfer from an official depository. Except as provided in this subsection, each check or
6 draft on an official depository shall bear on its face a certificate signed by the finance officer or
7 a deputy finance officer approved for this purpose by the local board (or signed by the
8 chairman or some other member of the board pursuant to subsection (o) of this section). The
9 certificate shall take substantially the following form:

10 "This disbursement has been approved in the manner required by G.S. 18B-702.

11 _____
12 (Signature of finance officer)."

13 No certificate is required on payroll checks or drafts on an imprest account in an official
14 depository if the check or draft depositing the funds in the imprest account carried a signed
15 certificate. No certificate is required for expenditures of fifty dollars (\$50.00) or less from a
16 petty cash fund provided the expenditure is accounted for by a receipt for the expended item.

17 (b)(r) Borrowing Money. – A local board may borrow money only for the purchase of
18 land, buildings, equipment and stock needed for the operation of its ABC system. A local board
19 may pledge a security interest in any real or personal property it owns other than alcoholic
20 beverages. A city or county whose governing body appoints a local board shall not in any way
21 be held responsible for the debts of that board.

22 (e)(s) Audits. – A local board shall submit to the appointing authority and Commission an
23 annual independent audit of its operations, performed in accordance with generally accepted
24 accounting standards and in compliance with a chart of accounts prescribed by the
25 Commission. The audit report shall contain a summary of the requirements of this Chapter, or
26 of any local act applicable to that local board, concerning the distribution of profits of that
27 board and a description of how those distributions have been made, including the names of
28 recipients of the profits and the activities for which the funds were distributed. A local board
29 shall also submit to any other audits and submit any reports demanded by the appointing
30 authority or the Commission.

31 (d)(t) Deposits and Investments. – A local board may deposit ~~moneys~~monies at interest in
32 any bank or trust company in this State in the form of savings accounts or certificates of
33 deposit. Investment deposits shall be secured as provided in G.S. 159-31(b) and the reports
34 required by G.S. 159-33 shall be submitted. A local board may invest all or part of the cash
35 balance of any fund as provided in G.S. 159-30(c) and (d), and may deposit any portion of
36 those funds for investment with the State Treasurer in the same manner as State boards and
37 commissions under G.S. 147-69.3.

38 (e)(u) Compliance with Commission Rules. – The Commission shall adopt, and each local
39 board shall comply with, fiscal control rules concerning the borrowing of money, maintenance
40 of working capital, investments, appointment of a budget officer, appointment of a financial
41 officer, daily deposit of funds, bonding of employees, auditing of operations, and the schedule,
42 manner and other procedures for distribution of profits. The Commission may also adopt any
43 other rules concerning the financial operations of local boards which are needed to assure the
44 proper accountability of public funds. The Commission may vary these rules and regulations
45 according to any other criteria reasonably related to the purpose or complexity of the financial
46 operations involved. The Commission has the authority to inquire into and investigate the
47 internal control procedures of a local board, and may require any modifications in internal
48 control procedures which, in the opinion of the Commission, are necessary or desirable to
49 prevent embezzlements or mishandling of public monies.

50 (v) Penalties. – If a board member or employee of a local board incurs an obligation or
51 pays out or causes to be paid out any funds in violation of this section, the member or employee

1 and the sureties on the official bond are liable for any sums so committed or disbursed. If the
2 finance officer or any properly designated deputy finance officer gives a false certificate to any
3 contract, agreement, purchase order, check, draft, or other document, the finance officer and the
4 sureties on the official bond are liable for any sums illegally committed or disbursed thereby.

5 (f)(w) Applicability of Criminal Statutes. – The provisions of G.S. 14-90 and G.S. 14-254
6 shall apply to any person appointed to or employed by a local board, and any person convicted
7 of a violation of G.S. 14-90 or G.S. 14-254 shall be punished as a Class H felon.

8 (x) Local Acts. – Notwithstanding the provisions of any local act, this section applies to
9 all local boards."

10 **SECTION 14.** Chapter 18B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
11 section to read:

12 **"§ 18B-704. Removal of local board members and employees.**

13 (a) Improper Influence. – Neither the Commission nor its individual members shall
14 attempt to coerce any appointing authority to appoint a particular person as a member of a local
15 board or attempt to coerce a local board to employ any particular applicant.

16 (b) Purpose. – This section is intended to provide a uniform system of removal for
17 appointing authorities and the Commission.

18 (c) Cause for Removal. – Disqualification of a local board member or employee under
19 the law, a violation of the ABC laws, failure to complete training required by this Chapter or
20 the Commission, or engaging in any conduct constituting moral turpitude or which brings the
21 local board or the ABC system into disrepute is cause for the Commission to remove any
22 member or employee of a local board. The employment or retention of any employee who is
23 known to be disqualified under the law to hold a position with a local board is cause for the
24 Commission to remove the board members involved.

25 (d) Removal Process. – The Commission or appointing authority shall provide, in
26 writing, to the local board member or employee the findings of fact upon which the decision for
27 removal is based. The Commission or appointing authority shall also provide the local board
28 member or employee with notice of the availability of a hearing before the Commission to
29 review the removal.

30 (e) Removal Hearing. – Any local board member or employee removed from office or
31 discharged by the Commission or the appointing authority may request a hearing before the
32 Commission. Such a request operates to stay the action of the Commission or the appointing
33 authority with regard to the matter until after the hearing, unless the Commission finds that the
34 public interest requires immediate action. At the hearing, the employee or his counsel may
35 examine all evidence used against him and present evidence in his own behalf. A removal
36 hearing is not subject to the provisions of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. All hearings
37 shall be conducted informally and in such manner as to preserve the substantial rights of the
38 parties.

39 (f) Hearing Procedure. – The Commission shall hold the hearing required by subsection
40 (e) of this section within 15 days of the member's or employee's request for a hearing. The
41 standard of review by the Commission is de novo. The Commission or appointing authority
42 shall be represented by a Commission hearing officer. The Commission shall discharge the
43 member or employee if two-thirds of the Commission's members vote for removal. The
44 Commission shall make findings of fact. The Commission may adopt the findings of fact of the
45 Commission or the appointing authority, may add new findings of fact to the original findings
46 of fact, or may substitute new findings of fact for the original findings of fact. The Commission
47 shall make conclusions of law and shall issue a written decision to the member or employee of
48 the local board, and to the appointing authority, within 15 days of the hearing.

49 (g) Commission Authority. – The Commission shall have the sole power, in its
50 discretion, to determine if cause exists for removal of a local board member or employee who

1 has requested a hearing before the Commission. The Commission's decision in a removal
2 hearing is final.

3 (h) Appeal. – A local board member or employee may appeal the Commission's final
4 decision to the Court of Appeals. The standard of review shall be abuse of discretion. The sole
5 remedy for a local board member or employee shall be the reinstatement of the board member
6 or employee to the local board with back pay. All awards for back pay shall be paid by the local
7 board from which the board member or employee was removed.

8 (i) Removal Hearing Not a Substitute for Termination of Employee. – Nothing in this
9 section replaces or is intended to replace a local board's policy regarding the termination of an
10 employee for personnel reasons. The removal process under this section is reserved solely for
11 the appointing authority or the Commission to remove a board member or employee for cause.

12 (j) Local Acts. – Notwithstanding the provisions of any local act, this section applies to
13 all local boards."

14 **SECTION 15.** Chapter 18B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
15 section to read:

16 **"§ 18B-705. Compliance with performance standards; remedies.**

17 (a) Local Board Compliance. – The Commission shall establish performance standards
18 pursuant to G.S. 18B-203(a)(20). The Commission shall ensure that all local boards comply
19 with established performance standards by conducting regular or special audits, conducting
20 performance evaluations, monitoring ABC law enforcement efforts, or taking other measures
21 which may include inspections by Commission auditors or alcohol law enforcement agents.

22 (b) Performance Improvement Plans. – The Commission, upon determining that a local
23 board is failing to meet performance standards established pursuant to G.S. 18B-203(a)(20),
24 shall meet with the chair of the local board and the appointing authority and issue a statement
25 of findings. The appointing authority, in consultation with the Commission, shall develop for
26 and deliver a performance improvement plan to the local board within 30 days of the meeting
27 with the Commission. The performance improvement plan shall include, but not be limited to,
28 recommendations for improved performance based on the performance standards established
29 by the Commission. The plan shall also state a period of time in which the performance
30 improvements are to occur and what action will be taken by the Commission if performance
31 standards are not met within the given time limits. The appointing authority shall allow up to,
32 but no more than, six months' time to the local board to implement and show improvement
33 under the performance improvement plan. The local appointing authority, in consultation with
34 the Commission and upon good cause shown, may allow up to an additional six-month period
35 of time for the local board to meet all requirements in the performance improvement plan and
36 to establish that the performance standards established by the Commission are met.

37 (c) Remedies. – If the Commission determines that the local board has not implemented
38 the recommendations for improved performance in a timely manner and the local board is not
39 meeting the performance standards or is failing to make all distributions required by
40 G.S. 18B-805(b), the Commission shall notify the local board and the appointing authority and
41 may make additional recommendations to the local board and appointing authority, including
42 closing a store or stores, relocating store locations, merging the local board with another local
43 board, or entering into an agreement for joint store operations, or abolishing the local board.

44 (d) Local Acts. – Notwithstanding the provisions of any local act, this section applies to
45 all local boards."

46 **SECTION 16.** Chapter 18B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
47 section to read:

48 **"§ 18B-706. Ethics requirements for local boards.**

49 (a) Each local board shall adopt a policy containing a code of ethics to guide actions by
50 the board members and employees of the ABC board in the performance of their official duties.
51 The policy shall address at least all of the following:

- 1 (1) The need to obey all applicable laws regarding official actions taken as a
2 board member or employee.
- 3 (2) The need to uphold the integrity and independence of the board member or
4 employee's position.
- 5 (3) The need to avoid impropriety in the exercise of official duties.
- 6 (4) The need to faithfully perform the duties of the position.
- 7 (5) The need to conduct the affairs of the board in an open and public manner,
8 including complying with all applicable laws governing open meetings and
9 public records.

10 (b) Each member of a local board shall receive a minimum of two hours of ethics
11 education within 12 months after initial appointment to the office and again within 12 months
12 after each subsequent appointment to the office. The ethics education shall cover laws and
13 principles that govern conflicts of interest and ethical standards of conduct for local ABC
14 boards. The education may be provided by the Commission or other qualified source approved
15 by the Commission. The local board shall maintain a record verifying receipt of the ethics
16 education by each member of the board. The local board may require appropriate ethics
17 training and education for employees of the local ABC board."

18 **SECTION 17.** G.S. 18B-801(b) reads as rewritten:

19 (b) Location of Stores. – A local board may choose the location of the ABC stores
20 within its jurisdiction, subject to the approval of the Commission. In making its decision on a
21 location, the Commission may consider:

- 22 (1) Whether the health, safety, or general welfare of the community will be
23 adversely ~~affected~~; and affected.
- 24 (2) Whether the citizens of the community or city in which the proposed store is
25 to be located voted for or against ABC stores in the last election on the
26 question.
- 27 (3) The proximity of the new location to existing ABC stores operated by the
28 local board or any other boards."

29 **SECTION 18.** G.S. 18B-801(d) reads as rewritten:

30 (d) Insolvent ABC System. – If an ABC system is insolvent, the local board may apply
31 to the Commission for an order to close the system. Upon receipt of an application, or upon its
32 own motion, the Commission shall investigate the system, and if it finds that ~~further operation~~
33 ~~of the ABC stores will not be profitable,~~ the system is insolvent, it may order the system closed.
34 If the Commission orders a local system to close, the Commission may:

- 35 (1) After consultation with the local board, its creditors, and other interested
36 parties, schedule a phase out of the system's business activities;
- 37 (2) Represent the local board in negotiations with creditors and other interested
38 parties;
- 39 (3) Require an accounting or auditing of the local system;
- 40 (4) Take possession or arrange for the disposition of any liquor for which the
41 local board has not paid;
- 42 (5) Apply to the Superior Court to be appointed as receiver for the local board
43 with all powers and duties of a receiver for a corporation under Article 38 of
44 Chapter 1 of the General Statutes, except that the Commission shall not be
45 required to post the bond required by G.S. 1-504; or
- 46 (6) Take any other reasonable steps to promote an orderly closing of the system.

47 In lieu of closing an insolvent system, the Commission may, in acting as appointed receiver
48 for the local board, enter into a voluntary agreement to merge the local board with another local
49 board pursuant to G.S. 18B-703, or may enter into a voluntary agreement with one or more
50 local boards to jointly operate one or more stores pursuant to G.S. 18B-703(h)."

51 **SECTION 19.** G.S. 18B-803 reads as rewritten:

1 "§ 18B-803. Store management.

2 (a) Manager. – A local board shall provide for the management of each store operated
3 by it. The board shall employ at least one manager for each store, who shall operate the store
4 pursuant to the directions of that board.

5 (b) Bonding of Manager. – Each store manager shall be bonded in an amount not less
6 than ~~five thousand dollars (\$5,000)~~, one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) secured by a
7 corporate surety, for the honest performance of his duties. A public employees' blanket position
8 bond, honesty form, in the required amount satisfies the requirements of this subsection. The
9 bond shall be payable to the local board and shall be approved by the appointing authority for
10 the local board. The appointing authority may increase the amount of bond required for store
11 managers under this subsection.

12 (c) Bonding of Other Employees. – A local board or the appointing authority may
13 require any of its other employees who handle funds to obtain bonds. The amount and form of
14 those bonds shall be determined by the local board.

15 (d) Local Acts. – Notwithstanding the provisions of any local act, this section applies to
16 all local boards."

17 **SECTION 20.** Section 6 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2011. Sections 8
18 and 10 of this act become effective October 1, 2010, and applies to general managers and
19 employees hired on or after that date. Section 13 of this act becomes effective May 1, 2011.
20 The remainder of this act becomes effective October 1, 2010.