

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 1196

Short Title: Require Free Water in Bars. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Greenfield.

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

May 5, 2026

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE ON-PREMISES ABC PERMITTEES TO PROVIDE DRINKING  
WATER WITHOUT CHARGE TO ANY CUSTOMER ON THE PREMISES  
REQUESTING THE WATER.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 18B-1006 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(t) Furnishing of Water Without Charge. – The holder of an on-premises malt beverage permit, on-premises unfortified wine permit, on-premises fortified wine permit, or mixed beverages permit issued under G.S. 18B-1001 shall furnish potable water without charge to any customer on the licensed premises requesting the water. A permittee subject to this subsection is only required to furnish water under this subsection during the hours in which the alcoholic beverage may be sold under G.S. 18B-1004. The water required to be furnished under this subsection shall meet all federal and State requirements concerning purity of drinking water and shall be supplied in a receptacle suitable to permit the individual consumption of not less than 6 fluid ounces per serving. For purposes of this subsection, the term "customer" means a person who pays a fee or other charge to enter the licensed premises, purchases an alcoholic beverage or other product from the permittee, or pays a fee or other charge to enter the licensed premises and purchases an alcoholic beverage or other product from the permittee."

**SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Division of Alcohol Law Enforcement of the Department of Public Safety the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to be used to produce and place informational posters making persons aware of the requirement set forth in G.S. 18B-1006(t), as enacted by Section 1 of this act. The Division shall distribute the posters required under this section to affected permittees, and the permittees shall prominently display the posters on the licensed premises in a place that is clearly conspicuous and visible to customers.

**SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this act is effective retroactively to July 1, 2025. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law and applies to requests made on or after that date.

