



State of North Carolina
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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N.C. ABC Commission Welcomes New Commissioner, Acts on 94 Permit Violations and Tables Consideration of Digital Wine Club

RALEIGH – At its regular meeting today, the N.C. Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission heard from a number of speakers for more than an hour before voting to table consideration of a request by E&J Gallo Winery for an exemption that would allow a new digital wine club at Harris Teeter. The matter will be considered on the Commission's March agenda.

Representatives of Gallo, Harris Teeter, the N.C. Retail Merchants Association and the N.C. Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association spoke to the Commission about the proposal, which would provide web-based wine product information to members of the grocery chain's existing wine club. The concept as proposed would be a pilot that would include brands from a number of wine suppliers and would be the first of its kind in the nation.

Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Daniel L. Briggs of Lexington was sworn in by Superior Court Judge Mark Klass to join Chairman Jon Williams and Commissioner Zander Guy to serve on the three-person ABC Commission that regulates alcohol across North Carolina.

"The ABC Commission is pleased to welcome Dan Briggs as we continue to consider issues and make decisions that are important to the business community, law enforcement and public health interests of our state," said Williams.

During the regular meeting the Commission:

- Approved a request by the N.C. Association of ABC Boards to allow a new product tasting at the association's upcoming General Managers' meeting.
- Approved a bailment fee increase of 10 cents per case to cover increased fuel costs, increased delivery points and increased contract costs for deliveries from the Raleigh warehouse to the 168 boards across the state.
- Approved adoption of rules, including comments that address shelving and one text edit for 04 NCAC 02S and 02T, published in Volume 25, Issue 12 of the N.C. Register.
- Approved for submission to the Office of Administrative Hearing's web site three proposed temporary rules recapping an earlier Commission resolution regarding required board training. The Commission also approved these same rules for publication as proposed permanent rules in the N.C. Register. A public hearing on the proposed temporary rules will be held at the Commission offices March 10.
- Took action on 94 permit violations, imposing penalties and fines of approximately \$112,000 on representatives of retail bars, restaurants, groceries and clubs found to be in violation of ABC laws and rules. In addition to the fines, many of the violations resulted in suspensions of permits for five days or more. The fines are to be paid by March 11, 2011 with suspensions beginning March 18, 2011. Fines benefit the local school systems where the violations occurred.

LOCATION: 400 EAST TRYON ROAD, RALEIGH, NC 27610

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<http://abc.nc.gov>

ABOUT THE ABC COMMISSION

North Carolina is one of 19 states to regulate alcohol through a control system. Since 1937, the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission has provided regulation and control over the sale, purchase, transportation, manufacture, consumption and possession of alcoholic beverages in the state of North Carolina. The Commission oversees more than 25,000 permits allowing alcohol sales by more than 17,000 retail outlets across the state.