



State of North Carolina
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL COMMISSION

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N.C. ABC Commission Levies \$10,000 Fine During March Meeting

RALEIGH – At its regular meeting today, the N.C. Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission levied a \$10,000 fine on a Greensboro business that had its fourth and fifth violations (sales to underage persons) in December 2008 and February 2009. Representatives of Great Stops 6 of 3901 North Church Street, Greensboro showed a slide presentation of a software and cash register system installed since the last underage sale in February 2009; they noted that since the installation of the \$400,000 system at all of its locations, there had been no underage sales documented. The three-person Commission agreed to Great Stop's request not to impose a proposed 20-day active suspension of alcohol permits, but levied double the recommended \$5,000 fine, which will benefit the Guilford County Schools.

Consideration of a new ABC store location requested by the Hendersonville ABC Board was continued by the Commission until the city of Hendersonville annexes the proposed location or the board selects a property that is already within the city limits.

An exemption request by Victus World Imports was continued until the May meeting of the ABC Commission; an exemption request on behalf of Harris Teeter and E&J Gallo was withdrawn by Gallo representatives prior to today's meeting.

In other business the Commission:

- Approved a request by the N.C. Association of ABC Boards to allow members attending an upcoming national industry conference to participate in hospitality events open to all other attendees during the conference.
- Requested LB&B Associates, the firm currently contracted to operate the ABC warehouse, to look for additional warehouse space that is within 15 miles of the current warehouse and available for a five-year lease. The Commission will review LB&B's findings and recommendations at a future meeting.
- Approved an updated version of rules reflecting technical changes and recommendations to the rules published in Volume 25, Issue 12 of the NC Register (04AC 02S and 02T). The update will be forwarded to the Rules Review Commission for its consideration.
- Took action on 75 permit violations, imposing penalties and fines of approximately \$100,000 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 April 8, 2011 with suspensions beginning April 15, 2011. Fines benefit the local school systems where the violations occurred.

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.