



## Alcoholic Beverage Control

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NC ABC COMMISSION APPROVES STORES FOR ORANGE COUNTY AND WILKESBORO, TAKES ACTION ON 61 HEARING CASES**

RALEIGH – During its regular monthly meeting today, the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission approved ABC stores requested by local boards in Orange County and the Town of Wilkesboro.

The state Commission today also approved the consolidation of the Catawba County and Taylorsville ABC systems. The system consolidation was requested by the two local ABC boards and had been approved by their local governments.

In other action, the NC ABC Commission voted to reduce shipping fees paid by local ABC boards this year by nearly a half million dollars, which will result in corresponding lower costs to distillers, local boards and potentially to North Carolina customers. The fees, called bailment and bailment surcharge, fund North Carolina's centralized liquor warehouse and shipping operations to all 167 ABC boards across the state as well as the ABC Commission's operations. The state ABC Commission voted to cut the per-case fees by a projected \$480,000 based on savings it expects to realize from increased operating efficiencies and from revenues anticipated from increased case shipments.

In its rulings, the Commission also took action on 61 hearing cases imposing penalties and fines of approximately \$73,000 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 30, 2012, with suspensions beginning April 6, 2012. Fines benefit the local school systems where the violations occurred.

"The actions taken today by the state ABC Commission to lower the shipping fees for all local boards and to allow two systems to merge will enhance the efficiency and profitability of North Carolina's ABC operations in the best interests of its citizens," said NC ABC Commission Chairman A.D. "Zander" Guy.

#### **ABOUT THE NC 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. The Commission oversees more than 25,000 permits allowing alcohol sales by more than 17,000 retail outlets across the state and applies its regulatory authority to benefit public health, public safety and fair commercial regulation of alcohol products. For more information see <http://abc.nc.gov>.

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