

Item Title: Resolution Supporting the Current Alcoholic Beverage Control System for the Sale of Liquor

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners adopts a resolution supporting the current Alcoholic Beverage Control system for the sale of liquor.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The resolution supports the current system of local control over the sale of spiritous liquors.

Background: House Bill 971 “Modern Licensure Model for Alcohol Control” would privatize the sale of liquor through private retail businesses in North Carolina, removing any local control from the permitting process, and eliminating ABC revenues from local governments that are used for behavioral treatment and community benefit.

Board Goal: This action supports multiple board goals including areas in Community Health, Great Government and Public Safety.

Fiscal Impact: The County will lose over \$7 million annually in ABC revenue through privatization. Wake County municipalities will lose \$4.8 million in revenue annually.

Additional Information:

House Bill 971 (Modern Licensure Model for Alcohol Control) was filed on April 25, 2019. The bill privatizes the retail sale and wholesale distribution of liquor, allows a minimum of 1,500 permits to be issued to any business that sells food (grocery stores, convenience stores, pharmacies, variety stores, etc.) or to any “retail business”, with additional numbers of permits available for issuance based on population growth, with retail liquor sales authorized between the hours of 7 a.m. and 2 a.m., and with those businesses allowed to ship liquor directly to individuals in or out of the State.

Attachments:

1. Resolution