



# HOUSE BILL 693: Common Carrier ABC Permit.

2021-2022 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	June 16, 2021
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Moffitt, Bradford, Szoka, Martin	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Chris Saunders
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Staff Attorney

**OVERVIEW:** House Bill 693 would create a new ABC permit for a fee of \$1,000 allowing the sale and service of alcoholic beverages to passengers in the passenger area of certain vehicles that are common carriers of passengers.

**CURRENT LAW AND BACKGROUND:** Under G.S. 20-4.01(27)d., the term "common carriers of passengers" means "Vehicles operated under a certificate of authority issued by the Utilities Commission for operation on the highways of this State between fixed termini or over a regular route for the transportation of persons for compensation."

Current law allows the sale of alcoholic beverages to passengers on airplanes and railroad trains (G.S. 18B-107 and G.S. 18B-108).

G.S. 18B-1004 prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages between 2:00 A.M. and 7:00 A.M. and consumption of alcoholic beverages between 2:30 A.M. in 7:00 A.M. in any place with an ABC permit. On Sundays, the sale and consumption of alcohol may not begin until 12:00 noon, unless a local ordinance allows such sales and consumption to begin at 10:00 A.M.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 693 would establish a "common carrier vehicle permit," which would cost \$1,000 and could be issued to a business primarily engaged in North Carolina in the intrastate operation of common carriers of passengers and operating under a certificate of authority issued by the Utilities Commission, such as a bus company. The permit would authorize the sale or service of malt beverages, unfortified wine, fortified wine, and mixed beverages to passengers during journeys of 75 miles or longer that do not terminate within 10 miles of the origin of the journey.

A permit would cover all common carriers of passengers owned by the business, and the permit or a copy of the permit must be displayed on all vehicles where alcoholic beverages are served or sold. For purposes of the permit, the passenger area of the common carrier of passengers would constitute the premises. Employees would not be allowed to consume alcohol on the vehicle.

Normal hours of sale and consumption would apply, but sales and consumption would be allowed beginning at 10:00 A.M. on Sundays.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would become effective August 1, 2021.

*Chris Saunders, Staff Attorney, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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