



Roy Cooper, Governor
State of North Carolina

GOVERNOR ROY COOPER OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

House Bill 594, "AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE INDOOR OR OUTDOOR EXERCISE AND FITNESS FACILITIES, GYMS, HEALTH CLUBS, AND FITNESS CENTERS TO RESUME OPERATIONS WHILE ALSO SAFEGUARDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) AND TO ALLOW CERTAIN EXISTING ESTABLISHMENTS TO OFFER AND OPERATE OUTDOOR DINING AND BEVERAGE SERVICE OPTIONS."

Tying the hands of public health officials in times of pandemic is dangerous, especially when case counts and hospitalizations are rising. State and local officials must be able to take swift action during the COVID-19 emergency to prevent a surge of patients from overwhelming hospitals and endangering the lives of North Carolinians. The bill could restrict leaders who need to respond quickly to outbreaks and protect public health and safety.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper".

Roy Cooper
Governor

The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina House of Representatives on this the 19th day of June 2020, at 3:50 pm for reconsideration by that body.

The Capitol Building, Raleigh, NC 27602
Mail: 20301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-0301
Phone: (919)814-2100

RECEIVED FROM GOVERNOR

3:50 pm

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A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "James White".

fitness centers. In obtaining a concurrence of a majority of the Council of State for this purpose, the Governor shall contact each member of the Council of State regarding the potential exercise of the emergency powers under G.S. 166A-19.30(b) or (c) and seek the concurrence or nonconcurrence of that member. The Governor shall document and release the concurrence, nonconcurrence, or no response provided by each member of the Council of State by name. Upon receiving and releasing the majority concurrence, the Governor may exercise the power or powers under G.S. 166A-19.30(b) or (c) as described to the members of the Council of State.

SECTION 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 130A-20, the Secretary of Health and Human Services or the Secretary of Environmental Quality may only order an abatement of an imminent hazard related to COVID-19 that requires closure of establishments that prepare or serve food or drink, private clubs or private bars, wineries, distilleries, exercise and fitness facilities, gyms, health clubs, or fitness centers upon notification to the Governor and with a concurrence of the majority of the Council of State. In obtaining a concurrence of a majority of the Council of State for this purpose, each member of the Council of State shall be contacted regarding the potential exercise of the powers under G.S. 130A-20 and seek the concurrence or nonconcurrence of that member. Each response shall be documented and released with respect to concurrence, nonconcurrence, or no response provided by each member of the Council of State by name. Upon receiving and releasing the majority concurrence, the appropriate Secretary may exercise the power under G.S. 130A-20 as described to the members of the Council of State.

SECTION 5. This act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 10th day of June, 2020.

Philip E. Berger
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

Tim Moore
Speaker of the House of Representatives

VETO

Roy Cooper
Governor

Approved _____ .m. this _____ day of _____, 2020

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JUN 19 2020

Page 5