



Roy Cooper, Governor
State of North Carolina

GOVERNOR ROY COOPER OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

Senate Bill 599, "AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE SKATING RINKS AND BOWLING ALLEYS TO RESUME OPERATIONS AND TO MODIFY THE CAPACITY OF TEMPORARY OUTDOOR SEATING FOR FOOD AND DRINK ESTABLISHMENTS."

Tying the hands of public health and executive branch officials in times of pandemic is dangerous, especially when case counts and hospitalizations are rising at a concerning rate. As we see in other states with surging COVID-19 case counts, state and local officials must be able to take swift action during this emergency to prevent a surge of patients from overwhelming hospitals and endangering the lives of North Carolinians. At this critical time, opening bowling alleys, skating rinks, and other indoor entertainment facilities runs contrary to both the troubling trends regarding COVID-19 deaths in North Carolina as well as scientific and medical data, which establishes that COVID-19 is significantly more likely to be transmitted in these settings. Bowling alleys and skating rinks exhibit many of the risk factors under the best available scientific and medical data. In these places, people gather in close proximity, are indoors with recirculating air, stay in the space for extended period of time, and engage in physical exertion. Opening these higher-risk facilities would spread COVID-19 and endanger the State's flexibility to open the public schools. Given the rapidly evolving nature of this pandemic, executive officials are best positioned to make emergency determinations about public health. The bill is intended to restrict leaders who need to respond quickly to outbreaks and new scientific information to protect public health and safety.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

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

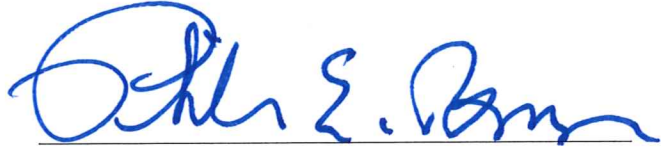
Roy Cooper
Governor

The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina Senate on this the 2nd day of July 2020, at 1:32 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 the
Governor July 2, 2020
@ 1:32 pm
Leah Apple

SECTION 5. This act is effective when it becomes law.
In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 19th day of June, 2020.



Philip E. Berger
President Pro Tempore of the Senate



David R. Lewis
Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

VETO



Roy Cooper
Governor

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

Received from the
Governor July 2, 2020
@ 1:32 p.m.
Leigh Hipple