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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



Gov. Bev Perdue at the JobsNOW signing with (from left) N.C. Rep. Chris Heagarty, N.C. Sen. Martin Nesbitt, and N.C. Rep. Pryor Gibson

Perdue signs JobsNOW legislation

Gov. Bev Perdue on July 22 signed House Bills [1973](#) and [1035](#) that will help create jobs for more North Carolinians. Gov. Perdue signed the bills in a ceremony at Epic Games, a video game company headquartered in Cary.

"This jobs package, which was strongly supported by legislators in both parties, gives North Carolina more tools in our economic development toolbox," said Perdue. "I intend for us to be as competitive and innovative as any state -- both nationally and internationally."

The [JobsNOW](#) legislation provides a number of critical tools for economic development in North Carolina, including:

- A new tax credit for investments in the digital media industry
- Extension of tax credits for businesses that create new jobs and new investment
- Enhancements to North Carolina's film tax credit to increase the state's competitiveness in film production
- Raising the bonding limit for small businesses that compete for small state construction projects -- which makes it easier and cheaper for small businesses and historically underutilized businesses to do work for the state.

[N.C. boosts arsenal to compete for videogame industry growth](#) (Local Tech Wire, July 23)

Defense spending increased in N.C. jumps by 10 percent

Gov. Bev Perdue, the [N.C. Military Business Center](#) (NCMBC) and the [N.C. Military Foundation](#) on July 26 announced that Dept. of Defense spending in North Carolina grew by 10 percent and exceeded \$4.0 billion in federal fiscal year 2009 -- an increase of \$363.8 million over procurement in the state in 2008.

"These numbers continue to indicate that North Carolina is becoming a very significant player in the global military and defense industry cluster," said Perdue. "The state has made great strides to leverage expanding markets, capture federal revenues and grow jobs right here in North Carolina -- the most military friendly state in America."

Perdue helped establish the NCMBC within the North Carolina Community College System and launched the foundation, a business development organization focused exclusively on building the state's defense and homeland security economy.

"Defense spending in North Carolina is critical to expanding our economy and growing jobs in North Carolina," said Scott Dorney, executive director of the NCMBC. "The defense and federal market is still booming. Although it is not easy, businesses across the state are competing and winning in the federal market." [Read more.](#) [Learn more about aerospace and defense in North Carolina.](#)

[Military spending in N.C. jumps by 10 percent](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, July 26)

NexxLinx plans 100 more jobs in Jacksonville

NexxLinx, Inc., a business process outsourcing provider based in Atlanta, is hiring for 100 open positions in Jacksonville. The company provides outsourced customer retention, customer care, back office support and technical support services for media, publishing and entertainment companies like



Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines and N.C. Biotechnology Center President Norris Tolson

N.C. mayors discuss life science opportunities

Mayors from life science communities across North Carolina joined NC BIO June 30 for the second annual meeting on local life science development strategies and opportunities. The group reviewed progress on goals and activities identified in a similar meeting in the summer of 2009. The meeting was hosted by NC BIO, the N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition and the N.C. League of Municipalities.

N.C. Biotechnology Center President Norris Tolson told the group that the state now has "one of the hottest biotech sectors in the country . . . with a long list of companies looking at the state right now." Tolson said that if "only half of those companies come to the state, we can add several thousand jobs."

Mayor Allen Joines of Winston-Salem and Mayor Terry Bellamy of Asheville are co-chairs of the N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition Biotech Committee and worked with NC BIO on the program for the meeting. Mayors suggested some areas that would be of interest to them in the coming year. NC BIO will be developing a report to send to the mayors for follow-up activities. [Read more.](#)



International Civil Rights Center & Museum in Greensboro

Tourism leaders visit Civil Rights Museum

N.C. Dept. of Commerce Assistant Sec. for Tourism,

Time Warner Cable and Electronic Arts, according to information provided by NexxLinx.

[Atlanta-based firm plans 100 more jobs in area](#) (Jacksonville Daily News, July 23)

Perdue signs ABC reform bill

Gov. Bev Perdue on July 21 signed the ABC Reform Bill during a signing ceremony at the ABC Commission. The bill strengthens the control that city councils and county commissions exercise over local ABC boards. It also will add muscle to the state ABC Commission's ability to address problems at local boards.

"We have had far too many embarrassing stories over the past year about how some of our local ABC operations are run," said Perdue. "Local ABC boards, and the elected officials who appoint them, will have to answer for how well they run the business with which they have been entrusted."

Among other steps, the legislation requires that local boards establish ethics policies for themselves and their employees and limit the salaries of their employees.

New performance standards for enforcement of ABC laws, for efficiency and for customer service will provide tools with which the state commission can more effectively guide and, if necessary, penalize local boards.

Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry that illustrate some of the recent activities of the division. The metrics include the number of new economic development projects assigned to B&I development staff; the number of economic development project announcements; the number of announced jobs created and capital invested; the number of interactions existing industry staff had with businesses throughout the state; and the number of contacts received by the Business Link North Carolina/Business ServiCenter.

Jan. 1 - July 26, 2010

New projects assigned:	264
Projects announced:	68
Jobs created:	9,496
Capital invested:	\$1.64B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	551
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	13,657

Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges and Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development Director of Tourism Marketing Wit Tuttell toured the [International Civil Rights Center & Museum](#) in Greensboro recently. At the museum, they met with co-founder Rep. Earl Jones, Executive Director Bamidele Demerson, Managing Director for Development Amelia Parker and Henri Fourrier, president of the Greensboro Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. The division's Public Relations Manager Margo Metzger also toured the museum with Elizabeth Hudson, editor of *Our State* magazine.

The division has worked with its tourism partners to highlight African-American history and garner editorial coverage for the new museum. In January, museum leaders attended the division's New York media mission. During Black History Month, the division teamed with the Greensboro Area CVB and Visit Charlotte to bring nine national and regional journalists to the state, and the museum was a highlight of that visit. In addition, the museum is featured prominently in the print and online versions of the division's [Official 2010 North Carolina Travel Guide](#).

Allen & Son BBQ among USA Today's 10 great

Allen & Son Barbecue, in Chapel Hill, is among USA Today's "10 Great Places for BBQ with a Unique Sizzle." Says Stephen Raichlen, chef and author of "Planet Barbecue! 309 Recipes, 60 Countries," of owner Keith Allen, "He's one of the last guys who splits wood, fires it up, lets it burn down to embers and smoke roasts."

[10 great places for BBQ with a unique sizzle](#) (USA Today, July 21)

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [State incentives are a big business](#) (Burlington Times, July 19)
- [U.S., N.C. should aim to be 'first in clean energy'](#) (The Charlotte Observer, July 26)
- [GTCC expanding aviation program to meet demands](#) (The Business Journal of the Greater Triad, July 26)
- [State commerce chief touts leads](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, July 26)

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