

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 40
Finance Committee Substitute Adopted 4/2/09
House Committee Substitute Favorable 4/23/09
House Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 7/29/09

Short Title: Murfreesboro/Salisbury/Rockingham OT.

(Local)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 4, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF MURFREESBORO AND THE CITY OF SALISBURY TO LEVY A ROOM OCCUPANCY TAX AND TO AUTHORIZE ROCKINGHAM COUNTY TO LEVY AN ADDITIONAL ONE PERCENT ROOM OCCUPANCY TAX.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

PART I. MURFREESBORO OCCUPANCY TAX

SECTION 1.1. Occupancy tax. – (a) Authorization and Scope. – The Town Council of the Town of Murfreesboro may levy a room occupancy tax of up to three percent (3%) of the gross receipts derived from the rental of any room, lodging, or accommodation furnished by a hotel, motel, inn, tourist camp, or similar place within the town that is subject to sales tax imposed by the State under G.S. 105-164.4(a)(3). This tax is in addition to any State or local sales tax. This tax does not apply to accommodations furnished by nonprofit charitable, educational, or religious organizations when furnished in furtherance of their nonprofit purpose.

SECTION 1.1.(b) Administration. – A tax levied under this section shall be levied, administered, collected, and repealed as provided in G.S. 160A-215. The penalties provided in G.S. 160A-215 apply to a tax levied under this section.

SECTION 1.1.(c) Distribution and Use of Tax Revenue. – The Town of Murfreesboro shall, on a quarterly basis, remit the net proceeds of the occupancy tax to the Murfreesboro Tourism Development Authority. The Authority shall use at least two-thirds of the funds remitted to it under this subsection to promote travel and tourism in the Town of Murfreesboro and shall use the remainder for tourism-related expenditures.

The following definitions apply in this subsection:

- (1) Net proceeds. – Gross proceeds less the cost to the town of administering and collecting the tax, as determined by the finance officer, not to exceed three percent (3%) of the first five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) of gross proceeds collected each year and one percent (1%) of the remaining gross proceeds collected each year.
- (2) Promote travel and tourism. – To advertise or market an area or activity, publish and distribute pamphlets and other materials, conduct market research, or engage in similar promotional activities that attract tourists or business travelers to the area; the term includes administrative expenses incurred in engaging in the listed activities.



- 1 (3) Tourism-related expenditures. – Expenditures that, in the judgment of the
2 Murfreesboro Tourism Development Authority, are designed to increase the
3 use of lodging facilities, meeting facilities, or convention facilities in the
4 town or to attract tourists or business travelers to the town. The term
5 includes tourism-related capital expenditures.

6 **SECTION 1.2.** Tourism Development Authority. – (a) Appointment and
7 Membership. – When the Town Council adopts a resolution levying a room occupancy tax
8 under this act, it shall also adopt a resolution creating the Murfreesboro Tourism Development
9 Authority, which shall be a public authority under the Local Government Budget and Fiscal
10 Control Act. The resolution shall provide for the membership of the Authority, including the
11 members' terms of office, and for the filling of vacancies on the Authority. At least one-third of
12 the members shall be individuals who are affiliated with businesses that collect the tax in the
13 town, and at least one-half of the members shall be individuals who are currently active in the
14 promotion of travel and tourism in the town. The Town Council shall designate one member of
15 the Authority as chair and shall determine the compensation, if any, to be paid to members of
16 the Authority.

17 The Authority shall meet at the call of the chair and shall adopt rules of procedure to
18 govern its meetings. The finance officer for the Town of Murfreesboro shall be the ex officio
19 finance officer of the Authority.

20 **SECTION 1.2.(b) Duties.** – The Authority shall expend the net proceeds of the tax
21 levied under Section 1.1 of this act for the purposes provided that section. The Authority shall
22 promote travel, tourism, and conventions in the town, sponsor tourist-related events and
23 activities in the town, and finance tourist-related capital projects in the town.

24 **SECTION 1.2.(c) Reports.** – The Authority shall report quarterly and at the close
25 of the fiscal year to the Murfreesboro Town Council on its receipts and expenditures for the
26 preceding quarter and for the year in such detail as the Town Council may require.

27 **PART II. SALISBURY OCCUPANCY TAX**

28 **SECTION 2.1.** Occupancy tax. – (a) Authorization and Scope. – The City Council
29 of the City of Salisbury may levy a room occupancy tax of up to three percent (3%) of the gross
30 receipts derived from the rental of any room, lodging, or accommodation furnished by a hotel,
31 motel, inn, tourist camp, or similar place within the city that is subject to sales tax imposed by
32 the State under G.S. 105-164.4(a)(3). This tax is in addition to any State or local sales tax. This
33 tax does not apply to accommodations furnished by nonprofit charitable, educational, or
34 religious organizations when furnished in furtherance of their nonprofit purpose.

35 **SECTION 2.1.(b) Administration.** – A tax levied under this section shall be levied,
36 administered, collected, and repealed as provided in G.S. 160A-215. The penalties provided in
37 G.S. 160A-215 apply to a tax levied under this section.

38 **SECTION 2.1.(c) Distribution and Use of Tax Revenue.** – The City of Salisbury
39 shall, on a quarterly basis, remit the net proceeds of the occupancy tax to the Salisbury Tourism
40 Development Authority. The Authority shall use at least two-thirds of the funds remitted to it
41 under this subsection to promote travel and tourism in the City of Salisbury and shall use the
42 remainder for tourism-related expenditures.

43 The following definitions apply in this subsection:

- 44 (1) Net proceeds. – Gross proceeds less the cost to the city of administering and
45 collecting the tax, as determined by the finance officer, not to exceed three
46 percent (3%) of the first five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) of gross
47 proceeds collected each year and one percent (1%) of the remaining gross
48 proceeds collected each year.
- 49 (2) Promote travel and tourism. – To advertise or market an area or activity,
50 publish and distribute pamphlets and other materials, conduct market
51 research, or engage in similar promotional activities that attract tourists or

1 business travelers to the area; the term includes administrative expenses
2 incurred in engaging in the listed activities.

- 3 (3) Tourism-related expenditures. – Expenditures that, in the judgment of the
4 Salisbury Tourism Development Authority, are designed to increase the use
5 of lodging facilities, meeting facilities, or convention facilities in the city or
6 to attract tourists or business travelers to the city. The term includes
7 tourism-related capital expenditures.

8 **SECTION 2.2.** Tourism Development Authority. – (a) Appointment and
9 Membership. – When the City Council adopts a resolution levying a room occupancy tax under
10 this act, it shall also adopt a resolution creating the Salisbury Tourism Development Authority,
11 which shall be a public authority under the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.
12 The resolution shall provide for the membership of the Authority, including the members' terms
13 of office, and for the filling of vacancies on the Authority. At least one-third of the members
14 shall be individuals who are affiliated with businesses that collect the tax in the city, and at
15 least one-half of the members shall be individuals who are currently active in the promotion of
16 travel and tourism in the city. The City Council shall designate one member of the Authority as
17 chair and shall determine the compensation, if any, to be paid to members of the Authority.

18 The Authority shall meet at the call of the chair and shall adopt rules of procedure to
19 govern its meetings. The finance officer for the City of Salisbury shall be the ex officio finance
20 officer of the Authority.

21 **SECTION 2.2.(b)** Duties. – The Authority shall expend the net proceeds of the tax
22 levied under Section 2.1 of this act for the purposes provided in that section. The Authority
23 shall promote travel, tourism, and conventions in the city, sponsor tourist-related events and
24 activities in the city, and finance tourist-related capital projects in the city.

25 **SECTION 2.2.(c)** Reports. – The Authority shall report quarterly and at the close
26 of the fiscal year to the Salisbury City Council on its receipts and expenditures for the
27 preceding quarter and for the year in such detail as the City Council may require.

28 **PART III. ROCKINGHAM COUNTY OCCUPANCY TAX**

29 **SECTION 3.1.** Chapter 322 of the 1991 Session Laws, as amended by Chapter 52
30 of the 1995 Session Laws and S.L. 2005-233, is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

31 "(a1) Authorization of Additional Tax. – In addition to the tax authorized by subsection
32 (a) of this section, the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners may levy an additional
33 room occupancy tax of up to one percent (1%) of the gross receipts derived from the rental of
34 accommodations taxable under subsection (a) of this section. The levy, collection,
35 administration, and repeal of the tax authorized by this subsection shall be in accordance with
36 the provisions of this section. Rockingham County may not levy a tax under this subsection
37 unless it also levies the tax authorized under subsection (a) of this section."

38 **PART IV. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS**

39 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 160A-215(g), as amended by S.L. 2009-169 and S.L. 2009-291,
40 reads as rewritten:

41 "(g) This section applies only to Beech Mountain District W, to the Cities of Belmont,
42 Conover, Eden, Elizabeth City, Gastonia, Goldsboro, Greensboro, Hickory, High Point, Kings
43 Mountain, Lexington, Lincolnton, Lumberton, Monroe, Mount Airy, Reidsville, Roanoke
44 Rapids, Salisbury, Shelby, Statesville, Washington, and Wilmington, to the Towns of Ahoskie,
45 Beech Mountain, Benson, Blowing Rock, Boiling Springs, Boone, Burgaw, Carolina Beach,
46 Carrboro, Dallas, Dobson, Elkin, Franklin, Jonesville, Kenly, Kure Beach, Leland, Mooresville,
47 Murfreesboro, North Topsail Beach, Pilot Mountain, Selma, Smithfield, St. Pauls, Troutman,
48 Tryon, West Jefferson, Wilkesboro, Wrightsville Beach, Yadkinville, and Yanceyville, and to
49 the municipalities in Avery and Brunswick Counties."

50 **PART V. EFFECTIVE DATE**

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