

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
1985 SESSION

CHAPTER 969  
SENATE BILL 948

AN ACT AUTHORIZING SEVERAL OF THE WESTERN COUNTIES AND  
DURHAM COUNTY TO LEVY A ROOM OCCUPANCY AND TOURISM  
DEVELOPMENT TAX.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Occupancy Tax. (a) Authorization and Scope. The board of commissioners of a county may by resolution, after not less than 10 days' public notice and after a public hearing held pursuant thereto, levy a room occupancy tax of three percent (3%) of the gross receipts derived from the rental of any room, lodging, or similar accommodation furnished by a hotel, motel, inn, or similar place within the county that is subject to sales tax imposed by the State under G.S. 105-164.4(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.

(b) Collection. Every operator of a business subject to the tax levied under this act shall, on and after the effective date of the levy of the tax, collect the tax. This tax shall be collected as part of the charge for furnishing a taxable accommodation. The tax shall be stated and charged separately from the sales records, and shall be paid by the purchaser to the operator of the business as trustee for and on account of the county. The tax shall be added to the sales price and shall be passed on to the purchaser instead of being borne by the operator of the business. The county shall design, print, and furnish to all appropriate businesses and persons in the county the necessary forms for filing returns and instructions to ensure the full collection of the tax.

(c) Administration. The county shall administer a tax levied under this act. A tax levied under this act is due and payable to the county finance officer in monthly installments on or before the 15th day of the month following the month in which the tax accrues. Every person, firm, corporation, or association liable for the tax shall, on or before the 15th day of each month, prepare and render a return on a form prescribed by the county. The return shall state the total gross receipts derived in the preceding month from rentals upon which the tax is levied.

A return filed with the county finance officer under this act is not a public record as defined by G.S. 132-1 and may not be disclosed except as required by law.

(d) Penalties. A person, firm, corporation, or association who fails or refuses to file the return required by this act shall pay a penalty of ten dollars (\$10.00) for each day's omission. In case of failure or refusal to file the return or pay the tax for a period of 30 days after the time required for filing the return or for paying the tax, there shall

be an additional tax, as a penalty, of five percent (5%) of the tax due for each additional month or fraction thereof until the tax is paid.

Any person who willfully attempts in any manner to evade a tax imposed under this act or who willfully fails to pay the tax or make and file a return shall, in addition to all other penalties provided by law, be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), imprisonment not to exceed six months, or both. The board of commissioners may, for good cause shown, compromise or forgive the penalties imposed by this subsection.

(e) Use of Tax Revenue. Except as provided in Section 2 of this act for Durham County, a taxing county shall place revenue collected from a tax levied under this act in a special Travel and Tourism Fund. Revenue in this Fund may be used only to promote travel and tourism in the county.

(f) Effective Date of Levy. A tax levied under this act shall become effective on the date specified in the resolution levying the tax. That date must be the first day of a calendar month, however, and may not be earlier than the first day of the second month after the date the resolution is adopted.

(g) Repeal. A tax levied under this act may be repealed by a resolution adopted by the board of commissioners of the county. Repeal of a tax levied under this act shall become effective on the first day of a month and may not become effective until the end of the fiscal year in which the repeal resolution was adopted. Repeal of a tax levied under this act does not affect a liability for a tax that attached before the effective date of the repeal, nor does it affect a right to a refund of a tax that accrued before the effective date of the repeal.

Sec. 2. Use and Distribution of Tax Revenue in Durham County. Durham County shall retain fifty-seven and one-half percent (57-1/2%) of the revenue collected from a tax levied under this act and shall distribute the remaining forty-two and one-half percent (42-1/2%) of the revenue to the City of Durham. Funds retained by the county or distributed to the City of Durham may be used for any purpose authorized by law, except that at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the funds so retained or distributed must be used for promotion of travel and tourism.

Sec. 3. This act applies only to the following counties: Graham, Clay, Jackson, Durham, Macon, Polk, and Transylvania.

Sec. 4. This act is effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified, this the 11th day of July, 1986.