

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015**

**SESSION LAW 2015-255
HOUSE BILL 531**

**AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE WAYNE COUNTY TO LEVY A ONE-PERCENT ROOM
OCCUPANCY TAX.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

PART I. WAYNE COUNTY OCCUPANCY TAX

SECTION 1.1. Occupancy Tax. – (a) Authorization and Scope. – The Wayne County Board of Commissioners may levy a room occupancy tax of one percent (1%) 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 county 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.

SECTION 1.1.(b) Administration. – A tax levied under this section shall be levied, administered, collected, and repealed as provided in G.S. 153A-155. The penalties provided in G.S. 153A-155 apply to a tax levied under this section.

SECTION 1.1.(c) Distribution and Use of Tax Revenue. – Wayne County shall, on a quarterly basis, remit the net proceeds of the occupancy tax to the Wayne County Tourism Development Authority. The Authority shall use one hundred percent (100%) of the funds remitted to it under this subsection to promote travel and tourism in Wayne County.

The following definitions apply in this subsection:

- (1) Net proceeds. – Gross proceeds less the cost to the county 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 receipts 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.

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

The Authority shall meet at the call of the chair and shall adopt rules of procedure to govern its meetings. The Finance Officer for Wayne County shall be the ex officio finance officer of the Authority.

SECTION 1.2.(b) Duties. – The Authority shall expend the net proceeds of the tax levied under this act for the purposes provided in this act. The Authority shall promote travel,



tourism, and conventions in the county and sponsor tourist-related events and activities in the county.

SECTION 1.2.(c) Reports. – The Authority shall report quarterly and at the close of the fiscal year to the Wayne County Board of Commissioners on its receipts and expenditures for the preceding quarter and for the year in such detail as the Board may require.

PART VI. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SECTION 6.1. G.S. 153A-155(g) reads as rewritten:

"(g) Applicability. – Subsection (c) of this section applies to all counties and county districts that levy an occupancy tax. To the extent subsection (c) conflicts with any provision of a local act, subsection (c) supersedes that provision. The remainder of this section applies only to Alleghany, Anson, Brunswick, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Chatham, Cherokee, Chowan, Clay, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Davie, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Madison, Martin, McDowell, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Person, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Rutherford, Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, Swain, Transylvania, Tyrrell, Vance, Washington, Wayne, and Wilson Counties, to New Hanover County District U, to Surry County District S, to Watauga County District U, to Wilkes County District K, to Yadkin County District Y, and to the Township of Averagesboro in Harnett County and the Ocracoke Township Taxing District."

PART VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 7. This act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 29th day of September, 2015.

s/ Daniel J. Forest
President of the Senate

s/ D. Craig Horn
Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives