

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017**

S

1

SENATE BILL 13

Short Title: Sanford Occupancy Tax. (Local)

Sponsors: Senator Rabin (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

January 26, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF SANFORD TO LEVY AN OCCUPANCY TAX.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Occupancy Tax. – (a) Authorization and Scope. – The Sanford City Council 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 city 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.(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 – A tax levied under this section shall be levied, administered, collected, and repealed as provided in G.S. 160A-215.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.(c) Distribution and Use of Tax Revenue. – Sanford shall, on a quarterly basis, remit the net proceeds of the occupancy tax to the Sanford Tourism Development Authority. The Authority shall use two-thirds of the funds remitted to it under this subsection to promote travel and tourism in Sanford and shall use the remaining one-third of the funds remitted to it under this subsection for the operation, maintenance, promotion, and renovation of the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center, an activity so closely related to travel and tourism in Sanford as to be credited with helping to generate as much as eighty percent (80%) of that city's tourism-related revenues. Any funds dedicated under this subsection for the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center that are not spent or obligated by the close of a fiscal year may be used by the Authority for the promotion of travel and tourism in Sanford.

The following definitions apply in this subsection:

- (1) Net proceeds. – Gross proceeds less the cost to the city 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 2. Sanford Tourism Development Authority. – (a) Appointment and Membership. – When the Sanford City Council adopts a resolution levying a room occupancy tax under this act, it shall also adopt a resolution creating a city Tourism Development Authority, which shall be a public authority under the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. The



1 resolution shall provide for the membership of the Authority, including the members' terms of
2 office, and for the filling of vacancies on the Authority. At least one-third of the members must be
3 individuals who are affiliated with businesses that collect the tax in the city, and at least one-half
4 of the members must be individuals who are currently active in the promotion of travel and
5 tourism in the city. The city council shall designate one member of the Authority as chair and shall
6 determine the compensation, if any, to be paid to members of the Authority.

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

10 **SECTION 2.(b) Duties.** – The Authority shall expend the net proceeds of the tax
11 levied under this act for the purposes provided in this act. The Authority shall promote travel,
12 tourism, and conventions in the city and sponsor tourist-related events and activities in the city.

13 **SECTION 2.(c) Reports.** – The Authority shall report quarterly and at the close of the
14 fiscal year to the Sanford City Council on its receipts and expenditures for the preceding quarter
15 and for the year in such detail as the city council may require.

16 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 160A-215(g) reads as rewritten:

17 "(g) Applicability. – Subsection (c) of this section applies to all cities that levy an
18 occupancy tax. To the extent subsection (c) conflicts with any provision of a local act, subsection
19 (c) supersedes that provision. The remainder of this section applies only to Beech Mountain
20 District W, to the Cities of Belmont, Conover, Eden, Elizabeth City, Gastonia, Goldsboro,
21 Greensboro, Hickory, High Point, Jacksonville, Kings Mountain, Lake Santeetlah, Lenoir,
22 Lexington, Lincolnton, Lowell, Lumberton, Monroe, Mount Airy, Mount Holly, Reidsville,
23 Roanoke Rapids, Salisbury, Sanford, Shelby, Statesville, Washington, and Wilmington, to the
24 Towns of Ahoskie, Beech Mountain, Benson, Bermuda Run, Blowing Rock, Boiling Springs,
25 Boone, Burgaw, Carolina Beach, Carrboro, Cooleemee, Cramerton, Dallas, Dobson, Elkin,
26 Fontana Dam, Franklin, Grover, Hillsborough, Jonesville, Kenly, Kure Beach, Leland,
27 McAdenville, Mocksville, Mooresville, Murfreesboro, North Topsail Beach, Pembroke, Pilot
28 Mountain, Ranlo, Robbinsville, Selma, Smithfield, St. Pauls, Swansboro, Troutman, Tryon, West
29 Jefferson, Wilkesboro, Wrightsville Beach, Yadkinville, and Yanceyville, and to the
30 municipalities in Avery and Brunswick Counties."

31 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.