2004 SESSION

ENROLLED

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VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - CHAPTER

2 An Act to amend and reenact § 58.1-3819 of the Code of Virginia, relating to imposing the transient 3 occupancy tax at certain tax rates.

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Approved

6 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

7 1. That § 58.1-3819 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows: 8

§ 58.1-3819. Transient occupancy tax.

9 A. Any county, by duly adopted ordinance, may levy a transient occupancy tax on hotels, motels, 10 boarding houses, travel campgrounds, and other facilities offering guest rooms rented out for continuous occupancy for fewer than 30 consecutive days. Such tax shall be in such amount and on such terms as 11 the governing body may, by ordinance, prescribe. Such tax shall not exceed two percent of the amount 12 13 of charge for the occupancy of any room or space occupied; however, in any county having a population of no less than 40,000 and no greater than 45,000, and in any county which had adopted the 14 15 county executive form of government and which is not contiguous to any county operating under the urban county executive form of government; any county having a population of no less than 12,600 and 16 17 no greater than 12,800; any county having a population of no less than 29,100 and no greater than 18 29,300 as determined by the 1990 United States Census; any county having a population of no less than 19 29,750 and no greater than 31,000; any county having a population of no less than 57,000 and no greater than 57,450; any county having a population of no less than 60,000 and no greater than 62,500; 20 21 in any county having a population of no less than 86,000 and no greater than 86,500; in any county having a population of no less than 44,000 and no greater than 45,700; and in Cumberland County, 22 23 Floyd County, King George County, and Prince Edward County, such tax shall not exceed the rate of 24 five percent. The revenues collected from that portion of the tax over two percent shall be designated 25 and spent for promoting tourism, travel or business that generates tourism or travel in the locality. It is 26 further provided that any county having a population of no less than 18,000 and no greater than 20,000; 27 any county having a population of no less than 20,500 and no greater than 21,250; any county having a population of no less than 21,500 and no greater than 23,000; any county having a population of no less 28 29 than 25,100 and no greater than 26,000; any county having a population of no less than 34,500 and no greater than 39,560; any county having a population of no less than 45,900 and no greater than 47,000; 30 31 any county having a population of no less than 50,000 and no greater than 55,000; and any county 32 which had adopted the county executive form of government and which is contiguous to any county operating under the urban county executive form of government, may levy a transient occupancy tax not 33 34 to exceed five percent, and any excess over two percent shall be designated and spent solely for tourism, 35 marketing of tourism or initiatives that, as determined in consultation with the local tourism industry 36 organizations, attract travelers to the locality and generate tourism revenues in the locality. If there are 37 no local tourism industry organizations in the locality, the governing body shall hold a public hearing 38 prior to making any determination relating to how to attract travelers to the locality and generate tourism 39 revenues in the locality.

40 B. The tax imposed hereunder shall not apply to rooms or spaces rented and continuously occupied 41 by the same individual or same group of individuals for 30 or more days in hotels, motels, boarding 42 houses, travel campgrounds, and other facilities offering guest rooms. In addition, that portion of any tax 43 imposed hereunder in excess of two percent shall not apply to travel campgrounds in any county having a population of no less than 60,000 and no greater than 62,500, regardless of the number of days 44 45 occupied by the same individual or same group of individuals.

C. Nothing herein contained shall affect any authority heretofore granted to any county, city or town 46 47 to levy such a transient occupancy tax. The county tax limitations imposed pursuant to § 58.1-3711 shall 48 apply to any tax levied under this section, mutatis mutandis.

D. Any county, city or town which requires local hotel and motel businesses, or any class thereof, to 49 50 collect, account for and remit to such locality a local tax imposed on the consumer, may allow such businesses a commission for such service in the form of a deduction from the tax remitted. Such 51 commission shall be provided for by ordinance, which shall set the rate thereof, no less than three 52 53 percent, not to exceed five percent of the amount of tax due and accounted for. No commission shall be 54 allowed if the amount due was delinquent.

55 E. All transient occupancy tax collections shall be deemed to be held in trust for the county, city or 56 town imposing the tax.

[H 739]