

# DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

## 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Patron** Charles W. Carrico, Sr.
3. **Committee** Passed House and Senate
4. **Title** Admissions Tax in Washington County

2. **Bill Number** SB 503  
**House of Origin:**  
           **Introduced**  
           **Substitute**  
           **Engrossed**  
  
**Second House:**  
           **In Committee**  
           **Substitute**  
      X       **Enrolled**

**5. Summary/Purpose:**

This bill would authorize Washington County to impose an admissions tax of up to ten percent on (i) a multi-sports complex and (ii) an entertainment venue if such complex or venue, or both, (a) is located on all or part of a parcel of land or on adjacent parcels of land, containing at least 250 acres and (b) is in business on or before June 30, 2027. The authority for the tax would expire on July 1, 2027 if neither the multi-sports complex nor the entertainment venue is in business in Washington County on or before June 30, 2027.

Under current law, Washington County is authorized to impose an admissions tax of up to ten percent on admissions to a multi-sports complex and entertainment venue in the county that is located on all or part of a parcel of land or on adjacent parcels of land, containing at least 250 acres and is in business on or before June 30, 2027.

The effective date of this bill is not specified.

6. **Budget amendment necessary:** No.
7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** Not available. (See Line 8.)
8. **Fiscal implications:**

Administrative Cost

Washington County could incur an unknown administrative cost if it chooses to impose the admissions tax.

Revenue Impact

Washington County would experience an unknown positive revenue impact if it chooses to impose the admissions tax on an eligible multi-sports complex and/or entertainment venue. The revenue impact is unknown because it cannot be determined at what rate Washington County would choose to impose the tax and what the attendance would be at the eligible venue once collection begins.

This bill would have no impact on state revenues.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:**

Washington County

**10. Technical amendment necessary: No.**

**11. Other comments:**

Admissions Tax

Under current law, cities and towns that have general taxing powers in their charters may impose an excise tax on admissions. However, counties are limited in their taxing powers. Only those counties that are authorized by statute may impose the admissions tax, and must do so according to the limitations set forth by statute.

Currently, the counties of Arlington, Brunswick, Culpepper, Dinwiddie, Fairfax, New Kent, and Prince George are authorized to levy a tax on admissions at a maximum rate of ten percent. Beginning July 1, 2014, Stafford County has limited authority to levy an admissions tax on admissions to an entertainment venue located in Stafford that: 1) first becomes licensed to do business in the county on or after July 1, 2013; and 2) requires at least 75 acres of land purchased or leased by the entertainment venue owner on or after June 1, 2013. In addition, the counties of Charlotte, Clarke, Madison, Nelson, and Sussex may levy an admissions tax on admissions charged for attendance at spectator events, but are prohibited from levying the tax upon participants in order to participate in an event. Scott County may levy a \$0.25 tax on each patron admitted to an off-track horse race wagering facility.

Washington county is currently authorized to impose an admissions tax of up to ten percent on admissions to a multi-sports complex and entertainment venue in the county that is located on all or part of a parcel of land or on adjacent parcels of land, containing at least 250 acres and is in business on or before June 30, 2027.

Virginia law classifies events to which admissions are charged according to five groups, which include: 1) events from which gross receipts are dedicated entirely to charitable purposes; 2) admissions charged for events sponsored by public and private educational institutions; 3) admissions charged for entry into museums, botanical or similar gardens, and zoos; 4) admissions charged for sporting events; 5) admissions charged for entry into major league baseball games and events at any major league baseball stadium which has seating for at least 40,000 persons; and 6) all other admissions.

Each of the counties authorized to impose an admissions tax must do so by ordinance. Localities have the authority to tax each class of admissions with the same or with a different tax rate. Additionally, counties may elect not to levy the tax for events that are conducted solely to raise money for charitable purposes, provided the proceeds of the event are transferred to an entity that qualifies for exemption from the state Retail Sales and Use Tax.

According to the most recent available data, 16 cities, 3 counties, and 4 towns currently impose an admissions tax. Admissions tax collection totaled \$20.47 million in FY 2016.

### Proposal

This bill would authorize Washington County to impose an admissions tax of up to ten percent on (i) a multi-sports complex and (ii) an entertainment venue if such complex or venue, or both, (a) is located on all or part of a parcel of land or on adjacent parcels of land, containing at least 250 acres and (b) is in business on or before June 30, 2027. The authority for the tax would expire on July 1, 2027 if neither the multi-sports complex nor the entertainment venue is in business in Washington County on or before June 30, 2027.

The effective date of this bill is not specified.

### Similar Legislation

**House Bill 1553** is identical to this bill.

**House Bill 369** and **Senate Bill 501** would allow Wythe County to impose an admissions tax of up to 10 percent on events held at an exposition center that meets certain capacity and location criteria.

cc : Secretary of Finance

Date: 2/28/2018 VB  
SB503FER161