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SENATE BILL NO. 770

Offered January 18, 2008

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 58.1-3823 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the additional transient occupancy tax for advertising the Historic Triangle area.*

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Referred to Committee on Finance

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 58.1-3823 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 58.1-3823. Additional transient occupancy tax for certain counties.

A. In addition to such transient occupancy taxes as are authorized by §§ 58.1-3819 through 58.1-3822, Hanover County, Chesterfield County and Henrico County may impose:

1. An additional transient occupancy tax not to exceed four percent of the amount of the charge for the occupancy of any room or space occupied. The tax imposed hereunder shall not apply to rooms or spaces rented and continuously occupied by the same individual or same group of individuals for 30 or more days. The revenues collected from the additional tax shall be designated and spent for promoting tourism, travel or business that generates tourism or travel in the Richmond metropolitan area; and

2. An additional transient occupancy tax not to exceed two percent of the amount of the charge for the occupancy of any room or space occupied. The tax imposed hereunder shall not apply to rooms or spaces rented and continuously occupied by the same individual or same group of individuals for 30 or more days. The revenues collected from the additional tax shall be designated and spent for expanding the Richmond Centre, a convention and exhibition facility in the City of Richmond.

3. An additional transient occupancy tax not to exceed one percent of the amount of the charge for the occupancy of any room or space occupied. The tax imposed hereunder shall not apply to rooms or spaces rented and continuously occupied by the same individual or group of individuals for 30 or more days. The revenues collected from the additional tax shall be designated and spent for the development and improvement of the Virginia Performing Arts Foundation's facilities in Richmond, for promoting the use of the Richmond Centre and for promoting tourism, travel or business that generates tourism and travel in the Richmond metropolitan area.

B. In addition to such transient occupancy taxes as are authorized by §§ 58.1-3819 through 58.1-3822, any county with the county manager plan of government may impose an additional transient occupancy tax not to exceed two percent of the amount of the charge for the occupancy of any room or space occupied, provided the county's governing body approves the construction of a county conference center. The tax imposed hereunder shall not apply to rooms or spaces rented and continuously occupied by the same individual or same group of individuals for 30 or more days. The revenues collected from the additional tax shall be designated and spent for the design, construction, debt payment, and operation of such conference center.

C. 1. In addition to such transient occupancy taxes as are authorized by §§ 58.1-3819 through 58.1-3822, the Counties of James City and York may impose an additional transient occupancy tax not to exceed \$2 per room per night for the occupancy of any overnight guest room. The revenues collected from the additional tax shall be designated and expended solely for advertising the Historic Triangle area, which includes all of the City of Williamsburg and the Counties of James City and York, as an overnight tourism destination by the members of the Williamsburg Area Destination Marketing Committee of the Williamsburg Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau as described in subdivision 2. The tax imposed by this subsection shall not apply to travel campground sites or to rooms or spaces rented and continuously occupied by the same individual or same group of individuals for 30 or more days.

2. The Williamsburg Area Destination Marketing Committee shall consist of 10 members be a Committee of the Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance. The Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance shall serve as the fiscal agent for the Williamsburg Area Destination Marketing Committee and shall provide such other administrative support as it shall deem necessary and appropriate to assure the integrity and accountability of expenditures of revenue. The governing bodies of the City of Williamsburg, the County of James City, and the County of York shall each designate one of their members to serve as members of the Williamsburg Area Destination Marketing Committee. These three members of the Committee shall have two votes apiece.

Further, one member of the Committee shall be selected by the Board of Directors of the Williamsburg Hotel and Motel Association; one member of the Committee shall be from The Colonial

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59 Williamsburg Foundation and shall be selected by the Foundation; one member of the Committee shall
60 be an employee of Busch Gardens ~~Williamsburg~~ Europe/Water Country USA and shall be selected by
61 Busch Gardens ~~Williamsburg~~ Europe/Water Country USA; one member of the Committee shall be from
62 the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and shall be selected by the Foundation; *one member of the*
63 *Committee shall be selected by the Executive Committee of the Greater Williamsburg Chamber and*
64 *Tourism Alliance;* and one member of the Committee shall be the President and Chief Executive Officer
65 of the Virginia Tourism Authority who shall serve ex officio. Each of these ~~five~~ *six* members of the
66 Committee shall have one vote apiece.

67 ~~3. The President of the Williamsburg Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors~~
68 ~~Bureau and the Executive Director of the Williamsburg Hotel and Motel Association each shall serve ex~~
69 ~~officio with nonvoting privileges. The President of the Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism~~
70 ~~Alliance shall serve ex officio with nonvoting privileges unless chosen by the Executive Committee of the~~
71 ~~Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance to serve as its voting representative. The~~
72 ~~Executive Director of the Williamsburg Hotel and Motel Association shall serve ex officio with~~
73 ~~nonvoting privileges.~~

74 43. The provisions in ~~subdivisions 2 and 3~~ *subdivision 2* relating to the composition and voting
75 powers of the Williamsburg Area Destination Marketing Committee shall be a condition of the authority
76 to impose the tax provided herein.

77 For purposes of this subsection, "advertising the Historic Triangle area" as an overnight tourism
78 destination means advertising that is intended to attract visitors from a sufficient distance so as to
79 require an overnight stay of at least one night.

80 D. The county tax limitations imposed pursuant to § 58.1-3711 shall apply to any tax levied under
81 this section, mutatis mutandis.