

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8490

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

May 19, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BUTTENSCHON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

AN ACT to amend the tax law, in relation to authorizing occupancy taxes in the city of Utica and the city of Rome; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The tax law is amended by adding a new section 1202-kk to  
2 read as follows:

3 § 1202-kk. Occupancy tax in the city of Utica. (1) Notwithstanding any  
4 other provision of law to the contrary, the city of Utica, in the county  
5 of Oneida, is hereby authorized and empowered to adopt and amend local  
6 laws imposing in such city a tax, in addition to any other tax author-  
7 ized and imposed pursuant to this article, such as the legislature has  
8 or would have the power and authority to impose upon persons occupying  
9 any room for hire in any hotel. For the purposes of this section, the  
10 term "hotel" shall mean a building or portion of such building which is  
11 rentable or consisting of rentable units providing lodging on an over-  
12 night basis for guests. The term "hotel" includes an apartment hotel, a  
13 motel, and facilities designated and commonly known as a "bed and break-  
14 fast" and similar "tourist" facilities, whether or not meals are served.  
15 The rate of such tax shall not exceed three percent of the per diem  
16 rental rate for each room whether such room is rented on a daily or  
17 longer basis.

18 (2) Such taxes may be collected and administered by the chief fiscal  
19 officer of the city of Utica by such means and in such manner as other  
20 taxes which are now collected and administered by such officer or as  
21 otherwise may be provided by such local law.

22 (3) Such local laws may provide that any taxes imposed shall be paid  
23 by the person liable therefor to the owner of the room for hire in the  
24 tourist home, inn, club, hotel, motel, or other similar place of public

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 accommodation occupied or to the person entitled to be paid the rent or  
2 charge the room for hire in the tourist home, inn, club, hotel, motel,  
3 or other similar place of public accommodation occupied for and on  
4 account of the city of Utica imposing the tax and that such owner or  
5 person entitled to be paid the rent or charge shall be liable for the  
6 collection and payment of the tax; and that such owner or person enti-  
7 tled to be paid the rent or charge shall have the same right in respect  
8 to collecting the tax from the person occupying the room for hire in the  
9 tourist home, inn, club, hotel, motel, or other similar place of public  
10 accommodation, or in respect to nonpayment of the tax by the person  
11 occupying the room for hire in the tourist home, inn, club, hotel,  
12 motel, or similar place of public accommodation, as if the taxes were a  
13 part of the rent or charge and payable at the same time as the rent or  
14 charge; provided, however, that the chief fiscal officer of the city,  
15 specified in such local laws, shall be joined as a party in any action  
16 or proceeding brought to collect the tax by the owner or by the person  
17 entitled to be paid the rent or charge.

18 (4) Such local laws may provide for the filing of returns and the  
19 payment of the taxes on a monthly basis or on the basis of any longer or  
20 shorter period of time.

21 (5) This section shall not authorize the imposition of such tax upon  
22 any of the following:

23 a. The state of New York, or any public corporation (including a  
24 public corporation created pursuant to agreement or compact with another  
25 state or the dominion of Canada), improvement district or other poli-  
26 tical subdivision of the state;

27 b. The United States of America, insofar as it is immune from taxa-  
28 tion;

29 c. Any corporation or association, or trust, or community chest, fund  
30 or foundation organized and operated exclusively for religious, charita-  
31 ble or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to chil-  
32 dren or animals, and no part of the net earnings of which inures to the  
33 benefit of any private shareholder or individual and no substantial part  
34 of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise  
35 attempting to influence legislation; provided, however, that nothing in  
36 this paragraph shall include an organization operated for the primary  
37 purpose of carrying on a trade or business for profit, whether or not  
38 all of its profits are payable to one or more organizations described in  
39 this paragraph; or

40 d. A permanent resident of a hotel or motel. For the purposes of this  
41 section, the term "permanent resident" shall mean a natural person occu-  
42 pying any room or rooms in a hotel or motel for at least ninety consec-  
43 utive days.

44 (6) Any final determination of the amount of any tax payable hereunder  
45 shall be reviewable for error, illegality or unconstitutionality or any  
46 other reason whatsoever by a proceeding under article seventy-eight of  
47 the civil practice law and rules if application therefor is made to the  
48 supreme court within thirty days after the giving of notice of such  
49 final determination, provided, however, that any such proceeding under  
50 article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules shall not be  
51 instituted unless:

52 a. The amount of any tax sought to be reviewed, with such interest and  
53 penalties thereon as may be provided for by local laws or regulations  
54 shall be first deposited and there shall be filed an undertaking, issued  
55 by a surety company authorized to transact business in this state and  
56 approved by the superintendent of financial services of this state as to

1 solvency and responsibility, in such amount as a justice of the supreme  
2 court shall approve to the effect that if such proceeding be dismissed  
3 or the tax confirmed the petitioner will pay all costs and charges which  
4 may accrue in the prosecution of such proceeding; or

5 b. At the option of the petitioner, such undertaking may be in a sum  
6 sufficient to cover the taxes, interests and penalties stated in such  
7 determination plus the costs and charges which may accrue against it in  
8 the prosecution of the proceeding, in which event the petitioner shall  
9 not be required to pay such taxes, interest or penalties as a condition  
10 precedent to the application.

11 (7) Where any taxes imposed hereunder shall have been erroneously,  
12 illegally or unconstitutionally collected and application for the refund  
13 therefor duly made to the proper fiscal officer or officers, and such  
14 officer or officers shall have made a determination denying such refund,  
15 such determination shall be reviewable by a proceeding under article  
16 seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules, provided, however,  
17 that such proceeding is instituted within thirty days after the giving  
18 of the notice of such denial, that a final determination of tax due was  
19 not previously made, and that an undertaking is filed with the proper  
20 fiscal officer or officers in such amount and with such sureties as a  
21 justice of the supreme court shall approve to the effect that if such  
22 proceeding be dismissed or the taxes confirmed, the petitioner will pay  
23 all costs and charges which may accrue in the prosecution of such  
24 proceeding.

25 (8) Except in the case of a willfully false or fraudulent return with  
26 intent to evade the tax, no assessment of additional tax shall be made  
27 after the expiration of more than three years from the date of the  
28 filing of a return, provided, however, that where no return has been  
29 filed as provided by law the tax may be assessed at any time.

30 (9) All revenues resulting from the imposition of the tax under the  
31 local laws shall be paid into the treasury of the city of Utica and  
32 shall be credited to and deposited in the general fund of the city. Such  
33 revenues may be used to support municipal services, infrastructure and  
34 other essential expenditures as determined by the common council of the  
35 city of Utica.

36 (10) Each enactment of such a local law may provide for the imposition  
37 of a hotel or motel tax for a period of time no longer than two years  
38 from the date of its enactment. Nothing in this section shall prohibit  
39 the adoption and enactment of local laws, pursuant to the provisions of  
40 this section, upon the expiration of any other local law adopted pursu-  
41 ant to this section.

42 (11) If any provision of this section or the application thereof to  
43 any person or circumstance shall be held invalid, the remainder of this  
44 section and the application of such provision to other persons or  
45 circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

46 § 2. The tax law is amended by adding a new section 1202-11 to read as  
47 follows:

48 § 1202-11. Occupancy tax in the city of Rome. (1) Notwithstanding any  
49 other provision of law to the contrary, the city of Rome, in the county  
50 of Oneida, is hereby authorized and empowered to adopt and amend local  
51 laws imposing in such city a tax, in addition to any other tax author-  
52 ized and imposed pursuant to this article, such as the legislature has  
53 or would have the power and authority to impose upon persons occupying  
54 any room for hire in any hotel. For the purposes of this section, the  
55 term "hotel" shall mean a building or portion of such building which is  
56 rentable or consisting of rentable units providing lodging on an over-

1 night basis for guests. The term "hotel" includes an apartment hotel, a  
2 motel, and facilities designated and commonly known as a "bed and break-  
3 fast" and similar "tourist" facilities, whether or not meals are served.  
4 The rate of such tax shall not exceed three percent of the per diem  
5 rental rate for each room whether such room is rented on a daily or  
6 longer basis.

7 (2) Such taxes may be collected and administered by the chief fiscal  
8 officer of the city of Rome by such means and in such manner as other  
9 taxes which are now collected and administered by such officer or as  
10 otherwise may be provided by such local law.

11 (3) Such local laws may provide that any taxes imposed shall be paid  
12 by the person liable therefor to the owner of the room for hire in the  
13 tourist home, inn, club, hotel, motel, or other similar place of public  
14 accommodation occupied or to the person entitled to be paid the rent or  
15 charge the room for hire in the tourist home, inn, club, hotel, motel,  
16 or other similar place of public accommodation occupied for and on  
17 account of the city of Rome imposing the tax and that such owner or  
18 person entitled to be paid the rent or charge shall be liable for the  
19 collection and payment of the tax; and that such owner or person enti-  
20 tled to be paid the rent or charge shall have the same right in respect  
21 to collecting the tax from the person occupying the room for hire in the  
22 tourist home, inn, club, hotel, motel, or other similar place of public  
23 accommodation, or in respect to nonpayment of the tax by the person  
24 occupying the room for hire in the tourist home, inn, club, hotel,  
25 motel, or similar place of public accommodation, as if the taxes were a  
26 part of the rent or charge and payable at the same time as the rent or  
27 charge; provided, however, that the chief fiscal officer of the city,  
28 specified in such local laws, shall be joined as a party in any action  
29 or proceeding brought to collect the tax by the owner or by the person  
30 entitled to be paid the rent or charge.

31 (4) Such local laws may provide for the filing of returns and the  
32 payment of the taxes on a monthly basis or on the basis of any longer or  
33 shorter period of time.

34 (5) This section shall not authorize the imposition of such tax upon  
35 any of the following:

36 a. The state of New York, or any public corporation (including a  
37 public corporation created pursuant to agreement or compact with another  
38 state or the dominion of Canada), improvement district or other poli-  
39 tical subdivision of the state;

40 b. The United States of America, insofar as it is immune from taxa-  
41 tion;

42 c. Any corporation or association, or trust, or community chest, fund  
43 or foundation organized and operated exclusively for religious, charita-  
44 ble or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to chil-  
45 dren or animals, and no part of the net earnings of which inures to the  
46 benefit of any private shareholder or individual and no substantial part  
47 of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise  
48 attempting to influence legislation; provided, however, that nothing in  
49 this paragraph shall include an organization operated for the primary  
50 purpose of carrying on a trade or business for profit, whether or not  
51 all of its profits are payable to one or more organizations described in  
52 this paragraph; or

53 d. A permanent resident of a hotel or motel. For the purposes of this  
54 section, the term "permanent resident" shall mean a natural person occu-  
55 pying any room or rooms in a hotel or motel for at least ninety consec-  
56 utive days.

1 (6) Any final determination of the amount of any tax payable hereunder  
2 shall be reviewable for error, illegality or unconstitutionality or any  
3 other reason whatsoever by a proceeding under article seventy-eight of  
4 the civil practice law and rules if application therefor is made to the  
5 supreme court within thirty days after the giving of notice of such  
6 final determination, provided, however, that any such proceeding under  
7 article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules shall not be  
8 instituted unless:

9 a. The amount of any tax sought to be reviewed, with such interest and  
10 penalties thereon as may be provided for by local laws or regulations  
11 shall be first deposited and there shall be filed an undertaking, issued  
12 by a surety company authorized to transact business in this state and  
13 approved by the superintendent of financial services of this state as to  
14 solvency and responsibility, in such amount as a justice of the supreme  
15 court shall approve to the effect that if such proceeding be dismissed  
16 or the tax confirmed the petitioner will pay all costs and charges which  
17 may accrue in the prosecution of such proceeding; or

18 b. At the option of the petitioner, such undertaking may be in a sum  
19 sufficient to cover the taxes, interests and penalties stated in such  
20 determination plus the costs and charges which may accrue against it in  
21 the prosecution of the proceeding, in which event the petitioner shall  
22 not be required to pay such taxes, interest or penalties as a condition  
23 precedent to the application.

24 (7) Where any taxes imposed hereunder shall have been erroneously,  
25 illegally or unconstitutionally collected and application for the refund  
26 therefor duly made to the proper fiscal officer or officers, and such  
27 officer or officers shall have made a determination denying such refund,  
28 such determination shall be reviewable by a proceeding under article  
29 seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules, provided, however,  
30 that such proceeding is instituted within thirty days after the giving  
31 of the notice of such denial, that a final determination of tax due was  
32 not previously made, and that an undertaking is filed with the proper  
33 fiscal officer or officers in such amount and with such sureties as a  
34 justice of the supreme court shall approve to the effect that if such  
35 proceeding be dismissed or the taxes confirmed, the petitioner will pay  
36 all costs and charges which may accrue in the prosecution of such  
37 proceeding.

38 (8) Except in the case of a willfully false or fraudulent return with  
39 intent to evade the tax, no assessment of additional tax shall be made  
40 after the expiration of more than three years from the date of the  
41 filing of a return, provided, however, that where no return has been  
42 filed as provided by law the tax may be assessed at any time.

43 (9) All revenues resulting from the imposition of the tax under the  
44 local laws shall be paid into the treasury of the city of Rome and shall  
45 be credited to and deposited in the general fund of the city. Such  
46 revenues may be used to support municipal services, infrastructure and  
47 other essential expenditures as determined by the common council of the  
48 city of Rome.

49 (10) Each enactment of such a local law may provide for the imposition  
50 of a hotel or motel tax for a period of time no longer than two years  
51 from the date of its enactment. Nothing in this section shall prohibit  
52 the adoption and enactment of local laws, pursuant to the provisions of  
53 this section, upon the expiration of any other local law adopted pursu-  
54 ant to this section.

55 (11) If any provision of this section or the application thereof to  
56 any person or circumstance shall be held invalid, the remainder of this

1 section and the application of such provision to other persons or  
2 circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

3 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire December  
4 31, 2027 when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed  
5 repealed.