

1336

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

January 12, 2015

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Introduced by Sen. LITTLE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations

AN ACT to amend the tax law, in relation to authorizing the county of Franklin to establish hotel and motel taxes

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-cc to  
2     read as follows:  
3     S 1202-CC. HOTEL OR MOTEL TAXES IN FRANKLIN COUNTY. (1) NOTWITHSTAND-  
4     ING ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, THE COUNTY OF FRANKLIN  
5     IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND EMPOWERED TO ADOPT AND AMEND LOCAL LAWS IMPOS-  
6     ING IN SUCH COUNTY A TAX, IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER TAX AUTHORIZED AND  
7     IMPOSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE SUCH AS THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE HAS OR  
8     WOULD HAVE THE POWER AND AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE UPON PERSONS OCCUPYING  
9     HOTEL OR MOTEL ROOMS IN SUCH COUNTY. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION,  
10    THE TERM "HOTEL" OR "MOTEL" SHALL MEAN AND INCLUDE ANY FACILITY PROVID-  
11    ING LODGING ON AN OVERNIGHT BASIS AND SHALL INCLUDE THOSE FACILITIES  
12    DESIGNATED AND COMMONLY KNOWN AS "BED AND BREAKFAST" AND "TOURIST"  
13    FACILITIES.  
14    THE RATES OF SUCH TAX SHALL NOT EXCEED FIVE PERCENT OF THE PER DIEM  
15    RENTAL RATE FOR EACH ROOM, PROVIDED HOWEVER, THAT SUCH TAX SHALL NOT BE  
16    APPLICABLE TO A PERMANENT RESIDENT OF A HOTEL OR MOTEL. FOR THE PURPOSES  
17    OF THIS SECTION THE TERM "PERMANENT RESIDENT" SHALL MEAN A PERSON OCCU-  
18    PYING ANY ROOM OR ROOMS IN A HOTEL OR MOTEL FOR AT LEAST THIRTY CONSEC-  
19    UTIVE DAYS.  
20    (2) SUCH TAX MAY BE COLLECTED AND ADMINISTERED BY THE COUNTY TREASURER  
21    OR OTHER FISCAL OFFICERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY BY SUCH MEANS AND IN SUCH  
22    MANNER AS OTHER TAXES WHICH ARE NOW COLLECTED AND ADMINISTERED BY SUCH  
23    OFFICERS OR AS OTHERWISE MAY BE PROVIDED BY SUCH LOCAL LAW.

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

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1 (3) SUCH LOCAL LAWS MAY PROVIDE THAT ANY TAX IMPOSED SHALL BE PAID BY  
2 THE PERSON LIABLE THEREFOR TO THE OWNER OF THE HOTEL OR MOTEL ROOM OCCU-  
3 PIED OR TO THE PERSON ENTITLED TO BE PAID THE RENT OR CHARGE FOR THE  
4 HOTEL OR MOTEL ROOM OCCUPIED FOR AND ON ACCOUNT OF THE COUNTY OF FRANK-  
5 LIN IMPOSING THE TAX AND THAT SUCH OWNER OR PERSON ENTITLED TO BE PAID  
6 THE RENT OR CHARGE SHALL BE LIABLE FOR THE COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OF THE  
7 TAX; AND THAT SUCH OWNER OR PERSON ENTITLED TO BE PAID THE RENT OR  
8 CHARGE SHALL HAVE THE SAME RIGHT IN RESPECT TO COLLECTING THE TAX FROM  
9 THE PERSON OCCUPYING THE HOTEL OR MOTEL ROOM, OR IN RESPECT TO NONPAY-  
10 MENT OF THE TAX BY THE PERSON OCCUPYING THE HOTEL OR MOTEL ROOM, AS IF  
11 THE TAX WERE A PART OF THE RENT OR CHARGE AND PAYABLE AT THE SAME TIME  
12 AS THE RENT OR CHARGE; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE COUNTY TREASURER OR  
13 OTHER FISCAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNTY, SPECIFIED IN SUCH LOCAL LAW, SHALL  
14 BE JOINED AS A PARTY IN ANY ACTION OR PROCEEDING BROUGHT TO COLLECT THE  
15 TAX BY THE OWNER OR BY THE PERSON ENTITLED TO BE PAID THE RENT OR  
16 CHARGE.

17 (4) SUCH LOCAL LAWS MAY PROVIDE FOR THE FILING OF RETURNS AND THE  
18 PAYMENT OF THE TAX ON A MONTHLY BASIS OR ON THE BASIS OF ANY LONGER OR  
19 SHORTER PERIOD OF TIME.

20 (5) THIS SECTION SHALL NOT AUTHORIZE THE IMPOSITION OF SUCH TAX UPON  
21 ANY TRANSACTION, BY OR WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
22 SECTION TWELVE HUNDRED THIRTY OF THIS ARTICLE:

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; OR

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.

40 (6) ANY FINAL DETERMINATION OF THE AMOUNT OF ANY TAX PAYABLE PURSUANT  
41 TO THIS SECTION SHALL BE REVIEWABLE FOR ERROR, ILLEGALITY OR UNCONSTITU-  
42 TIONALITY OR ANY OTHER REASON WHATSOEVER BY A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE  
43 SEVENTY-EIGHT OF THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND RULES IF APPLICATION THERE-  
44 FOR IS MADE TO THE SUPREME COURT WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE GIVING OF  
45 THE NOTICE OF SUCH FINAL DETERMINATION, PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY SUCH  
46 PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE SEVENTY-EIGHT OF THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND  
47 RULES SHALL NOT BE INSTITUTED UNLESS:

48 A. THE AMOUNT OF ANY TAX SOUGHT TO BE REVIEWED, WITH SUCH INTEREST AND  
49 PENALTIES THEREON AS MAY BE PROVIDED FOR BY LOCAL LAW OR REGULATION  
50 SHALL BE FIRST DEPOSITED AND THERE IS FILED AN UNDERTAKING, ISSUED BY A  
51 SURETY COMPANY AUTHORIZED TO TRANSACT BUSINESS IN THIS STATE AND  
52 APPROVED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES OF THIS STATE AS TO  
53 SOLVENCY AND RESPONSIBILITY, IN SUCH AMOUNT AS A JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME  
54 COURT SHALL APPROVE TO THE EFFECT THAT IF SUCH PROCEEDING BE DISMISSED  
55 OR THE TAX CONFIRMED THE PETITIONER WILL PAY ALL COSTS AND CHARGES WHICH  
56 MAY ACCRUE IN THE PROSECUTION OF SUCH PROCEEDING; OR

1 B. AT THE OPTION OF THE PETITIONER SUCH UNDERTAKING MAY BE IN A SUM  
2 SUFFICIENT TO COVER THE TAXES, INTERESTS AND PENALTIES STATED IN SUCH  
3 DETERMINATION PLUS THE COSTS AND CHARGES WHICH MAY ACCRUE AGAINST IT IN  
4 THE PROSECUTION OF THE PROCEEDING, IN WHICH EVENT THE PETITIONER SHALL  
5 NOT BE REQUIRED TO PAY SUCH TAXES, INTEREST OR PENALTIES AS A CONDITION  
6 PRECEDENT TO THE APPLICATION.

7 (7) WHERE ANY TAX IMPOSED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL HAVE BEEN  
8 ERRONEOUSLY, ILLEGALLY OR UNCONSTITUTIONALLY COLLECTED AND APPLICATION  
9 FOR THE REFUND THEREOF DULY MADE TO THE PROPER FISCAL OFFICER OR OFFI-  
10 CERS, AND SUCH OFFICER OR OFFICERS SHALL HAVE MADE A DETERMINATION DENY-  
11 ING SUCH REFUND, SUCH DETERMINATION SHALL BE REVIEWABLE BY A PROCEEDING  
12 UNDER ARTICLE SEVENTY-EIGHT OF THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND RULES,  
13 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH PROCEEDING IS INSTITUTED WITHIN THIRTY DAYS  
14 AFTER THE GIVING OF THE NOTICE OF SUCH DENIAL, THAT A FINAL DETERMI-  
15 NATION OF TAX DUE WAS NOT PREVIOUSLY MADE, AND THAT AN UNDERTAKING IS  
16 FILED WITH THE PROPER FISCAL OFFICER OR OFFICERS IN SUCH AMOUNT AND WITH  
17 SUCH SURETIES AS A JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT SHALL APPROVE TO THE  
18 EFFECT THAT IF SUCH PROCEEDING BE DISMISSED OR THE TAX CONFIRMED, THE  
19 PETITIONER WILL PAY ALL COSTS AND CHARGES WHICH MAY ACCRUE IN THE PROSE-  
20 CUTION OF SUCH PROCEEDING.

21 (8) EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF A WILFULLY FALSE OR FRAUDULENT RETURN WITH  
22 INTENT TO EVADE THE TAX, NO ASSESSMENT OF ADDITIONAL TAX SHALL BE MADE  
23 AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF MORE THAN THREE YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THE  
24 FILING OF A RETURN, PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT WHERE NO RETURN HAS BEEN  
25 FILED AS PROVIDED BY LAW THE TAX MAY BE ASSESSED AT ANY TIME.

26 (9) ALL REVENUES RESULTING FROM THE IMPOSITION OF THE TAX UNDER THE  
27 LOCAL LAWS SHALL BE PAID INTO THE TREASURY OF THE COUNTY OF FRANKLIN AND  
28 SHALL BE CREDITED TO AND DEPOSITED IN THE GENERAL FUND OF THE COUNTY,  
29 THEREAFTER TO BE ALLOCATED FOR THE PROMOTION OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT,  
30 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND OTHER DIRECTLY RELATED AND SUPPORTING ACTIV-  
31 ITIES; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH LOCAL LAWS SHALL PROVIDE THAT THE  
32 COUNTY OF FRANKLIN SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO RETAIN UP TO A MAXIMUM OF TEN  
33 PERCENT OF SUCH REVENUES TO DEFER THE NECESSARY EXPENSES OF SUCH COUNTY  
34 IN ADMINISTERING SUCH TAX.

35 (10) IF ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION OR THE APPLICATION THEREOF TO  
36 ANY PERSON OR CIRCUMSTANCE SHALL BE HELD INVALID, THE REMAINDER OF THIS  
37 SECTION AND THE APPLICATION OF SUCH PROVISION TO OTHER PERSONS OR  
38 CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL NOT BE AFFECTED THEREBY.

39 (11) EACH ENACTMENT OF SUCH LOCAL LAW MAY PROVIDE FOR THE IMPOSITION  
40 OF A HOTEL OR MOTEL TAX FOR A PERIOD OF TIME NO LONGER THAN THREE YEARS  
41 FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF ITS ENACTMENT. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL  
42 PROHIBIT THE ADOPTION AND ENACTMENT OF LOCAL LAWS, PURSUANT TO THE  
43 PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, UPON THE EXPIRATION OF ANY OTHER LOCAL LAW  
44 ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

45 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.