

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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HOUSE BILL 125*

Short Title: West Jefferson Occupancy Tax.

(Local)

Sponsors: Representative Wilson.

Referred to: Finance.

February 9, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF WEST JEFFERSON TO LEVY A
2 ROOM OCCUPANCY AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT TAX.
3

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Occupancy tax. – (a) Authorization and Scope. – The West
6 Jefferson Board of Aldermen may levy a room occupancy tax of up to three percent
7 (3%) of the gross receipts derived from the rental of any room, lodging, or
8 accommodation furnished by a hotel, motel, inn, tourist camp, or similar place within
9 the town that is subject to sales tax imposed by the State under G.S. 105-164.4(a)(3).
10 This tax is in addition to any State or local sales tax. This tax does not apply to
11 accommodations furnished by nonprofit charitable, educational, or religious
12 organizations when furnished in furtherance of their nonprofit purpose.

13 **SECTION 1.(b)** Administration. – A tax levied under this section shall be
14 levied, administered, collected, and repealed as provided in G.S. 160A-215. The
15 penalties provided in G.S. 160A-215 apply to a tax levied under this section.

16 **SECTION 1.(c)** Distribution and Use of Tax Revenue. – The Town of West
17 Jefferson shall, on a quarterly basis, remit the net proceeds of the occupancy tax to the
18 West Jefferson Tourism Development Authority. The Authority shall use at least
19 two-thirds of the funds remitted to it under this subsection to promote travel and tourism
20 in West Jefferson and shall use the remainder for tourism-related expenditures.

21 The following definitions apply in this subsection:

- 22 (1) Net proceeds. – Gross proceeds less the cost to the town of
23 administering and collecting the tax, as determined by the finance
24 officer, not to exceed three percent (3%) of the first five hundred
25 thousand dollars (\$500,000) of gross proceeds collected each year and
26 one percent (1%) of the remaining gross receipts collected each year.
- 27 (2) Promote travel and tourism. – To advertise or market an area or
28 activity, publish and distribute pamphlets and other materials, conduct
29 market research, or engage in similar promotional activities that attract

1 tourists or business travelers to the area; the term includes
2 administrative expenses incurred in engaging in the listed activities.

- 3 (3) Tourism-related expenditures. – Expenditures that, in the judgment of
4 the West Jefferson Tourism Development Authority, are designed to
5 increase the use of lodging facilities, meeting facilities, or convention
6 facilities in a town or to attract tourists or business travelers to the
7 town. The term includes tourism-related capital expenditures.

8 **SECTION 2.** Tourism Development Authority. – (a) Appointment and
9 Membership. – When the Board of Aldermen adopts a resolution levying a room
10 occupancy tax under this act, it shall also adopt a resolution creating a town Tourism
11 Development Authority, which shall be a public authority under the Local Government
12 Budget and Fiscal Control Act. The resolution shall provide for the membership of the
13 Authority, including the members' terms of office, and for the filling of vacancies on the
14 Authority. At least one-third of the members must be individuals who are affiliated with
15 businesses that collect the tax in the town, and at least three-fourths of the members
16 must be individuals who are currently active in the promotion of travel and tourism in
17 the town. The Board of Aldermen shall designate one member of the Authority as chair
18 and shall determine the compensation, if any, to be paid to members of the Authority.

19 The Authority shall meet at the call of the chair and shall adopt rules of
20 procedure to govern its meetings. The Finance Officer for the Town of West Jefferson
21 shall be the ex officio finance officer of the Authority.

22 **SECTION 2.(b)** Duties. – The Authority shall expend the net proceeds of the
23 tax levied under this act for the purposes provided in Section 1 of this act. The
24 Authority shall promote travel, tourism, and conventions in the town, sponsor
25 tourist-related events and activities in the town, and finance tourist-related capital
26 projects in the town.

27 **SECTION 2.(c)** Reports. – The Authority shall report quarterly and at the
28 close of the fiscal year to the Board of Aldermen on its receipts and expenditures for the
29 preceding quarter and for the year in such detail as the Board of Aldermen may require.

30 **SECTION 3.** Town administrative provisions. – G.S. 160A-215(g) reads as
31 rewritten:

32 "(g) This section applies only to Beech Mountain District W, to the Cities of
33 Gastonia, Goldsboro, Greensboro, High Point, Kings Mountain, Lexington, Lincolnton,
34 Lumberton, Monroe, Mount Airy, Shelby, Statesville, Washington, and Wilmington, to
35 the Towns of Beech Mountain, Blowing Rock, Carolina Beach, Carrboro, Franklin,
36 Kure Beach, Jonesville, Mooresville, North Topsail Beach, Selma, Smithfield, St. Pauls,
37 West Jefferson, Wilkesboro, and Wrightsville Beach, and to the municipalities in Avery
38 and Brunswick Counties."

39 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.