

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015**

**SENATE BILL 140
RATIFIED BILL**

**AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF LAKE SANTEETLAH TO LEVY AN
OCCUPANCY TAX.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Occupancy tax. – (a) Authorization and Scope. – The Town Council of the Town of Lake Santeetlah may levy a room occupancy tax of up to three percent (3%) of the gross receipts derived from the rental of an accommodation within the town that is subject to sales tax imposed by the State under G.S. 105-164.4(a)(3). This tax is in addition to any State or local sales tax.

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 – A tax levied under this section shall be levied, administered, collected, and repealed as provided in G.S. 160A-215.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

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

The following definitions apply in this section:

- (1) Net proceeds. – Gross proceeds less the cost to the town of administering and collecting the tax, as determined by the finance officer, not to exceed three percent (3%) of the first five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) of gross proceeds collected each year and one percent (1%) of the remaining gross proceeds collected each year.
- (2) Promote travel and tourism. – To advertise or market an area or activity, publish and distribute pamphlets and other materials, conduct market research, or engage in similar promotional activities that attract tourists or business travelers to the area; the term includes administrative expenses incurred in engaging in the listed activities.
- (3) Tourism-related expenditures. – Expenditures that, in the judgment of the Lake Santeetlah Tourism Development Authority, are designed to increase the use of lodging facilities, meeting facilities, or convention facilities in the town or to attract tourists or business travelers to the town. The term includes tourism-related capital expenditures.

SECTION 1.(d) Tourism Development Authority. – Appointment and Membership. – When the Town Council adopts a resolution levying a room occupancy tax under this section, it shall also adopt a resolution creating the Lake Santeetlah Tourism Development Authority, which shall be a public authority under the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. The resolution shall provide for the membership of the Authority, including the members' terms of office, and for the filling of vacancies on the Authority. At least one-third of the members shall be individuals who are affiliated with businesses that collect the tax in the town, and at least one-half of the members shall be individuals who are currently active in the promotion of travel and tourism in the town. The Town Council shall designate one member of the Authority as chair and shall determine the compensation, if any, to be paid to members of the Authority.

The Authority shall meet at the call of the chair and shall adopt rules of procedure to govern its meetings. The finance officer for the Town of Lake Santeetlah shall be the ex officio finance officer of the Authority.



SECTION 1.(e) Duties. – The Authority shall expend the net proceeds of the tax levied under this section for the purposes provided in subsection (c) of this section. The Authority shall promote travel, tourism, and conventions in the town, sponsor tourist-related events and activities in the town, and finance tourist-related capital projects in the town.

SECTION 1.(f) Reports. – The Authority shall report quarterly and at the close of the fiscal year to the Lake Santeetlah Town Council on its receipts and expenditures for the preceding quarter and for the year in such detail as the Town Council may require.

SECTION 2. G.S. 160A-215(g) reads as rewritten:

"(g) **Applicability.** – Subsection (c) of this section applies to all cities that levy an occupancy tax. To the extent subsection (c) conflicts with any provision of a local act, subsection (c) supersedes that provision. The remainder of this section applies only to Beech Mountain District W, to the Cities of Belmont, Conover, Eden, Elizabeth City, Gastonia, Goldsboro, Greensboro, Hickory, High Point, Jacksonville, Kings Mountain, Lake Santeetlah, Lenoir, Lexington, Lincolnton, Lowell, Lumberton, Monroe, Mount Airy, Mount Holly, Reidsville, Roanoke Rapids, Salisbury, Shelby, Statesville, Washington, and Wilmington, to the Towns of Ahoskie, Beech Mountain, Benson, Bermuda Run, Blowing Rock, Boiling Springs, Boone, Burgaw, Carolina Beach, Carrboro, Cooleemee, Cramerton, Dallas, Dobson, Elkin, Fontana Dam, Franklin, Grover, Hillsborough, Jonesville, Kenly, Kure Beach, Leland, McAdenville, Mocksville, Mooresville, Murfreesboro, North Topsail Beach, Pembroke, Pilot Mountain, Ranlo, Robbinsville, Selma, Smithfield, St. Pauls, Swansboro, Troutman, Tryon, West Jefferson, Wilkesboro, Wrightsville Beach, Yadkinville, and Yanceyville, and to the municipalities in Avery and Brunswick Counties."

SECTION 3. This act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 22nd day of June, 2015.

s/ Chad Barefoot
Presiding Officer of the Senate

s/ Tim Moore
Speaker of the House of Representatives