

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023**

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**HOUSE BILL 1019**

Short Title: McDowell County Occupancy Tax Modifications. (Local)

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Sponsors: Representative Greene.

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

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Referred to: Local Government, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

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May 6, 2024

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE MCDOWELL COUNTY TO LEVY AN ADDITIONAL ONE PERCENT OCCUPANCY TAX AND TO MAKE OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 892 of the 1985 Session Laws, as amended by S.L. 2007-315, reads as rewritten:

"Section 1. Occupancy Tax. – (a) Authorization and Scope. – The McDowell County Board of Commissioners may levy a room occupancy tax of three percent (3%) of the gross receipts derived from the rental of ~~any room, lodging, or similar accommodation furnished by a hotel, motel, inn, or similar place within an accommodation within~~ the county 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. ~~This tax does not apply to accommodations furnished by nonprofit charitable, educational, or religious organizations when furnished in furtherance of the nonprofit purpose.~~

(a1) Authorization of Additional Two Percent Occupancy Tax. – In addition to the tax authorized by subsection (a) of this section, the McDowell County Board of Commissioners may levy an additional room occupancy tax of two percent (2%) of the gross receipts derived from the rental of accommodations taxable under subsection (a) of this section. The levy, collection, administration, and repeal of the tax authorized by this subsection shall be in accordance with the provisions of this act. McDowell County may not levy a tax under this subsection unless it also levies the tax authorized under subsection (a) of this section.

(a2) Authorization of Additional One Percent Occupancy Tax. – In addition to the tax authorized by subsections (a) and (a1) of this section, the McDowell County Board of Commissioners may levy an additional room occupancy tax of one percent (1%) of the gross receipts derived from the rental of accommodations taxable under subsections (a) and (a1) of this section. The levy, collection, administration, and repeal of the tax authorized by this subsection shall be in accordance with the provisions of this act. McDowell County may not levy a tax under this subsection unless it also levies the tax authorized under subsections (a) and (a1) of this section.

(c) Administration. – A tax levied under this act shall be levied, administered, collected, and repealed as provided in G.S. 153A-155. The penalties provided in G.S. 153A-155 apply to a tax levied under this act.

(e) Distribution and Use of Tax Revenue. – McDowell County shall, on a quarterly basis, remit the net proceeds of the occupancy tax to the McDowell Tourism Development Authority.



1 The Authority shall use at least two-thirds of the funds remitted to it under this subsection to  
2 promote travel and tourism in McDowell County and shall use the remainder for tourism-related  
3 expenditures.

4 The following definitions apply in this subsection:

- 5 (1) Net proceeds. – Gross proceeds less the cost to the county of administering  
6 and collecting the tax, as determined by the finance officer, not to exceed three  
7 percent (3%) of the first five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) of gross  
8 proceeds collected each year and one percent (1%) of the remaining gross  
9 receipts collected each year.
- 10 (2) Promote travel and tourism. – To advertise or market an area or activity,  
11 publish and distribute pamphlets and other materials, conduct market research,  
12 or engage in similar promotional activities that attract tourists or business  
13 travelers to the area. The term includes administrative expenses incurred in  
14 engaging in the listed activities.
- 15 (3) Tourism-related expenditures. – Expenditures that, in the judgment of the  
16 Tourism Development Authority, are designed to increase the use of lodging  
17 facilities, meeting facilities, or convention facilities in a county or to attract  
18 tourists or business travelers to the county. The term includes tourism-related  
19 capital expenditures. Tourism-related capital expenditures may include  
20 expenditures to purchase, renovate, maintain, or operate heritage tourism sites,  
21 such as the McDowell House, the Carson House, Fort Davidson, or Heritage  
22 Trails.

23 "Sec. 2. Tourism Development Authority. (a) Appointment and Membership. – When the  
24 board of commissioners adopts a resolution levying a room occupancy tax under this act, it shall  
25 also adopt a resolution creating a county Tourism Development Authority, which shall be a  
26 public authority under the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. The resolution shall  
27 provide for the membership of the Authority, including the members' terms of office, and for the  
28 filling of vacancies on the Authority. At least one-half of the members shall be individuals who  
29 are affiliated with businesses that collect the tax in the county, and at least one-third of the  
30 members shall be individuals who are currently active in the promotion of travel and tourism in  
31 the county. The Authority must be comprised of the following seven voting members and two  
32 nonvoting, ex officio members:

- 33 (1) The Executive Director of the McDowell Chamber of Commerce, who shall  
34 serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member.
- 35 (2) A county commissioner appointed by the McDowell County Board of  
36 Commissioners, who shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member.
- 37 (3) Four owners or operators of hotels, motels, or other taxable accommodations,  
38 two of whom shall be appointed by the McDowell County Board of  
39 Commissioners, and two of whom shall be appointed by the McDowell  
40 Chamber of Commerce. Two of these appointees shall own or operate hotels,  
41 motels, or other accommodations with more than 50 rental units, and two shall  
42 own or operate hotels, motels, or other accommodations with 50 or fewer  
43 rental units.
- 44 (4) Three individuals who are currently active in the promotion of travel and  
45 tourism in the county, appointed as follows: two by the McDowell Chamber  
46 of Commerce and one by the McDowell County Board of Commissioners.

47 All members of the Authority shall serve without compensation. Vacancies in the Authority  
48 shall be filled by the appointing authority of the member creating the vacancy. Members  
49 appointed to fill vacancies shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term which they are  
50 appointed to fill. Members shall serve three-year terms. The members shall elect a chairman from  
51 the membership of the Authority, who shall serve for a term of two years. The Authority shall

1 meet at the call of the chairman and shall adopt rules of procedure to govern its meetings. The  
2 Finance Officer for McDowell County shall be the ex officio finance officer of the Authority.

3 (c) Duties. – The Authority shall expend the net proceeds of the tax levied under this act  
4 for ~~the purposes provided in this act. The Authority shall promote travel, tourism, and~~  
5 ~~conventions in McDowell County, sponsor tourist-related events and activities in the county, and~~  
6 ~~finance tourist-related capital projects in the county. In performing its duties, the Authority may~~  
7 ~~contract with any person, firm, or agency to advise and assist it and may recommend to the board~~  
8 ~~of county commissioners that county staff be employed for this advice and assistance. Any~~  
9 ~~county staff employed upon a recommendation made by the Authority shall be hired and~~  
10 ~~supervised by the Authority, which shall pay the salaries and expenses of this staff.~~  
11 promoting travel and tourism and for tourism-related expenditures as provided in this act.

12 (d) Reports. – The Authority shall report quarterly and at the close of the fiscal year to  
13 the board of county commissioners on its receipts and expenditures for the preceding quarter and  
14 for the year in such detail as the board may require.

15 "Sec. 4. This act is effective upon ratification."

16 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2024, and applies to the distribution  
17 and use of occupancy tax proceeds on or after that date.