

COUNTY CODE - OMNIBUS AMENDMENTS
Act of Apr. 20, 2016, P.L. 134, No. 18

Cl. 16

Session of 2016
No. 2016-18

HB 794

AN ACT

Amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), entitled, as amended, "An act relating to counties of the first, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth classes; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto; relating to imposition of excise taxes by counties, including authorizing imposition of an excise tax on the rental of motor vehicles by counties of the first class; and providing for regional renaissance initiatives," in preliminary provisions, further providing for applicability; in fiscal affairs, repealing provisions relating to authorization of excise tax, further providing for authorization of 5% hotel tax, repealing provisions relating to authorization of hotel tax and providing for hotel room rental tax in third through eighth class counties, for certification of recognized tourist promotion agencies and for hotel room rental in second class and second class A counties; and repealing related provisions of Title 53 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes regarding hotel room rental in second class A counties.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 102(a) of the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code, amended May 6, 2013 (P.L.22, No.4), is amended to read:

Section 102. Applicability.--(a) Except incidentally, as in sections 108, 201, 210, 211, 401 and 1401 or as provided in **section 1770.12 and Article XXX**, this act does not apply to counties of the first, second A, or second classes.

* * *

Section 2. Section 1770.2 of the act is repealed:

[Section 1770.2. Authorization of Excise Tax.--(a) The county commissioners of any county which has a recognized tourist promotion agency designated to act within the county may impose an excise tax not to exceed three per centum of the consideration received by each operator of a hotel within the county from each transaction of renting a room or rooms to transients. The tax shall be collected by the operator from the patron of the room or rooms and paid over to the county as herein provided.

(b) The county commissioners may by ordinance impose requirements for keeping of records, the filing of tax returns and the time and manner of collection and payment of tax. The county commissioners may also impose by ordinance penalties and interest for failure to comply with recordkeeping, filing, collection and payment requirements.

(c) The treasurer of each county electing to impose the tax authorized under this section shall collect the tax and deposit the revenues received from the tax in a special fund established for that purpose. After deducting from the fund any direct or indirect costs attributable to collection of the tax, the county shall distribute to the recognized tourist promotion agency

designated to act within the county all revenues received from the tax not later than sixty days after receipt of the tax revenues. The revenues from the special fund shall be used by the recognized tourist promotion agency for any or all of the following purposes:

- (1) Convention promotion.
 - (2) Marketing the area served by the agency as a leisure travel destination.
 - (3) Marketing the area served by the agency as a business travel destination.
 - (4) Using all appropriate marketing tools to accomplish these purposes, including, but not limited to, advertising, publicity, publications, direct marketing, direct sales and participation in industry trade shows.
 - (5) Projects or programs that are directly and substantially related to tourism within the county, augment and do not unduly compete with private sector tourism efforts and improve and expand the county as a destination market.
 - (6) Any other tourism marketing or promotion program deemed necessary by the recognized tourist promotion agency.
- (d) The tax year for a tax imposed under this section shall run concurrently with the calendar year.
- (e) An audited report on the income and expenditures incurred by a recognized tourist promotion agency receiving any revenues from the tax authorized under this section shall be submitted annually by the recognized tourist promotion agency to the county commissioners.

(e.1) Notwithstanding any other provision of subsection (b) or any other provision of law to the contrary, in counties of the third class having a population under the 1990 Federal Decennial Census in excess of 415,000 residents but less than 500,000 residents, a penalty of one and one-half per centum per month shall be imposed for failure to timely remit the tax authorized by this section. In addition to other remedies available for collection of debts, the county may also file a lien upon the hotel in the name of and for the use of the county as provided by law for municipal claims.

(f) As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"Consideration." Receipts, fees, charges, rentals, leases, cash, credits, property of any kind or nature, or other payment received by operators in exchange for or in consideration of the use or occupancy by a transient of a room or rooms in a hotel for any temporary period.

"County." Any county which is on the effective date of this act a county of the third class having a population under the 1990 Federal Decennial Census in excess of 337,000 residents, but less than 341,000 residents, or a county of the third class having a population under the 1990 Federal Decennial Census in excess of 374,000 residents, but less than 380,000 residents, or a county of the third class having a population under the 1990 Federal Decennial Census in excess of 415,000 residents, but less than 500,000 residents, or a county of the fourth class having a population under the 1990 Federal Decennial Census in excess of 159,000 residents, but less than 175,000 residents, or a county of the fifth class having a population under the 1990 Federal Decennial Census in excess of 123,000 residents, or a county of the fifth class having a population under the 1990 Federal Decennial Census in excess of 117,000 residents, but less than 121,050 residents, or a county of the sixth class having a population under the 1990 Federal Decennial Census in excess of 87,000 residents.

"Hotel." A hotel, motel, inn, guest house or other structure which holds itself out by any means, including advertising, license, registration with an innkeepers' group, convention listing association, travel publication or similar association or with a government agency, as being available to provide overnight lodging or use of facility space for consideration to persons seeking temporary accommodation; any place which advertises to the public at large or any segment thereof that it will provide beds, sanitary facilities or other space for a temporary period to members of the public at large; or any place recognized as a hostelry. The term does not include any portion of a facility that is devoted to persons who have an established permanent residence or a college or university student residence hall or any private campground, or any cabins, public campgrounds or other facilities located on State land.

"Occupancy." The use or possession or the right to the use or possession by any person other than a permanent resident of any room in a hotel for any purpose or the right to the use or possession of the furnishings or to the services accompanying the use and possession of the room.

"Operator." An individual, partnership, nonprofit or profit-making association or corporation or other person or group of persons who maintain, operate, manage, own, have custody of or otherwise possess the right to rent or lease overnight accommodations in a hotel to the public for consideration.

"Patron." A person who pays the consideration for the occupancy of a room or rooms in a hotel.

"Permanent resident." A person who has occupied or has the right to occupancy of a room or rooms in a hotel as a patron or otherwise for a period exceeding thirty consecutive days.

"Recognized tourist promotion agency." The nonprofit corporation, organization, association or agency which is engaged in planning and promoting programs designed to stimulate and increase the volume of tourist, visitor and vacation business within counties served by the agency as that term is defined in the act of April 28, 1961 (P.L.111, No.50), known as the "Tourist Promotion Law."

"Room." A space in a hotel set aside for use and occupancy by patrons, or otherwise, for consideration, having at least one bed or other sleeping accommodation in a room or group of rooms.

"Transaction." The activity involving the obtaining by a transient or patron of the use or occupancy of a hotel room from which consideration is payable to the operator under an express or an implied contract.

"Transient." An individual who obtains accommodation in a hotel by means of registering at the facility for the temporary occupancy of a room for the personal use of the individual by paying a fee to the operator.]

Section 2.1. Section 1770.5(c)(3) and (c.2) of the act, amended December 18, 2007 (P.L.465, No.72), are amended to read:

Section 1770.5. Authorization of Five Per Centum Hotel Tax.--* * *

(c) The county commissioners of each county shall designate the entity or agency responsible to collect and to enforce the collection of the tax on their behalf. All revenues received from the tax shall be deposited into a special fund, which is to be established by the county's treasurer. The disposition of the revenues from the special fund attributable to the levy of the first two per centum of the tax shall be as follows:

* * *

(3) seventy per centum of all revenue received per annum shall be distributed by the treasurer to qualified authorities located within the county of the third class imposing the tax for payment of the debt service on bonds issued for the construction of [the] **a** county regional sports facility having a seating capacity of [ten] **two and one-half** thousand to fourteen thousand seats, which is owned, in whole or in part, or leased by the applicable authority, and which is located within the county of the third class imposing the tax. The following are qualified authorities for purposes of this clause:

(i) an authority incorporated pursuant to the former act of May 2, 1945 (P.L.382, No.164), known as the "Municipality Authorities Act of 1945";

(ii) an industrial or commercial development authority incorporated pursuant to the act of August 23, 1967 (P.L.251, No.102), known as the "Economic Development Financing Law"; and

(iii) a redevelopment authority incorporated pursuant to the act of May 24, 1945 (P.L.991, No.385), known as the "Urban Redevelopment Law."

* * *

(c.2) The disposition of the revenues from the special fund attributable to the levy of the remaining two per centum of the tax shall be distributed by the treasurer as follows:

(1) fifty per centum shall be distributed to the TPA for the appropriate and reasonable marketing and promotional expenses for promoting tourism in the county imposing the tax; and

(2) fifty per centum shall be distributed as follows:

(i) Seventy-five per centum to an authority incorporated pursuant to the former "Municipality Authorities Act of 1945" located within the county of the third class currently imposing a tax for payment of the debt service on bonds issued for the construction of [the] **a** county regional sports facility having a seating capacity of [ten] **two and one-half** thousand to fourteen thousand seats, which is owned, in whole or in part, or leased by the applicable authority, and which is located within the county of the third class imposing the tax. Such authority shall use the tax distribution identified in this section for the improvement, support, rehabilitation, revitalization, construction, fit-out and reconstruction of one or more tourism or tourism infrastructure-related facilities, including, but not limited to, the payment of debt service on bonds related thereto.

(ii) Twenty-five per centum shall be distributed to the TPA for the appropriate and reasonable marketing and promotional expenses of promoting tourism in a city of the third class located within the county of the third class imposing the tax, and the same shall be used in accordance with a plan approved by the TPA.

* * *

Section 2.2. Section 1770.6 of the act is repealed:

[Section 1770.6. Authorization of Hotel Tax.--(a) Except as provided for in section 1770.7, the county commissioners of any county may impose an excise tax on the consideration received by each operator of a hotel, as defined by this section, from each transaction of renting a room or rooms to accommodate transients. If levied, the tax shall be collected by the operator from the patron of the room and paid over to the county and shall be known as the hotel room rental tax.

(b) The rate of the tax imposed under this section shall not exceed three per centum.

(c) The treasurer of each county electing to impose the tax authorized under this section shall collect the tax and deposit the revenues received from the tax in a special fund established for that purpose. Subsequent to the deduction for administrative costs established in subsection (e), the county shall distribute to the recognized tourist promotion agency all revenues received from the tax not later than sixty days after receipt of the tax revenues. The revenues from the special fund shall be used by the recognized tourist promotion agency for any or all of the following purposes:

- (1) Convention promotion.
- (2) Marketing the area served by the agency as a leisure travel destination.
- (3) Marketing the area served by the agency as a business travel destination.
- (4) Using all appropriate marketing tools to accomplish these purposes, including, but not limited to, advertising, publicity, publications, direct marketing, direct sales and participation in industry trade shows.

- (5) Projects or programs that are directly and substantially related to tourism within the county, augment and do not unduly compete with private sector tourism efforts and improve and expand the county as a destination market.

- (6) Any other tourism marketing or promotion program deemed necessary by the recognized tourist promotion agency.

(d) Each tax year for any tax imposed hereunder shall run concurrently with the county's fiscal year.

(d.1) An audited report on the income and expenditures incurred by a recognized tourist promotion agency receiving any revenues from the tax authorized under this section shall be submitted annually by the recognized tourist promotion agency to the county commissioners.

(e) For the purposes of defraying the costs associated with the collection of the tax imposed hereunder and otherwise performing its obligations under this section, the county is hereby authorized to deduct and retain an administrative fee from the taxes collected hereunder. Such administrative fee shall be established by the county but shall not exceed in any tax year the lesser of:

- (1) two per centum of all taxes collected hereunder; or
- (2) forty thousand dollars (\$40,000), which amount shall be adjusted biannually, beginning two years after the date of enactment, by the percentage growth in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers as determined by the United States Department of Labor.

(f) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"Bed and breakfast" or "homestead." A public accommodation consisting of a private residence, which contains ten or fewer bedrooms, used for providing overnight accommodations to the public and in which breakfast is the only meal served and is included in the charge for the room.

"Consideration." Receipts, fees, charges, rentals, leases, cash, credits, property of any kind or nature or other payment received by operators in exchange for or in consideration of the use or occupancy by a transient of a room or rooms in a hotel for any temporary period.

"County." Any county of the third class through the eighth class which on the effective date of this section does not have the authority to levy a hotel occupancy or room rental tax.

"Hotel." A hotel, motel, bed and breakfast, homestead, inn, guest house or other structure which holds itself out by any means, including advertising, license, registration with an innkeepers' group, convention listing association, travel publication or similar association or with a government agency, as being available to provide overnight lodging or use of facility space for consideration to persons seeking temporary accommodation; any place which advertises to the public at large or any segment thereof that it will provide beds, sanitary facilities or other space for a temporary period to members of the public at large; or any place recognized as a hostelry. The term does not include any portion of a facility that is devoted to persons who have an established permanent residence or a college or university student residence hall or any private campground or any cabins, public campgrounds or other facilities located on State land.

"Occupancy." The use or possession or the right to the use or possession by any person other than a permanent resident of any room in a hotel for any purpose or the right to the use or possession of the furnishings or to the services accompanying the use and possession of the room.

"Operator." An individual, partnership, nonprofit or profit-making association or corporation or other person or group of persons who maintain, operate, manage, own, have custody of or otherwise possess the right to rent or lease overnight accommodations in a hotel to the public for consideration.

"Patron." A person who pays the consideration for the occupancy of a room or rooms in a hotel.

"Permanent resident." A person who has occupied or has the right to occupancy of a room or rooms in a hotel as a patron or otherwise for a period exceeding thirty consecutive days.

"Recognized tourist promotion agency." The nonprofit corporation, organization, association or agency which is engaged in planning and promoting programs designed to stimulate and increase the volume of tourist, visitor and vacation business within counties served by the agency as that term is defined in the act of April 28, 1961 (P.L.111, No.50), known as the "Tourist Promotion Law."

"Room." A space in a hotel set aside for use and occupancy by patrons, or otherwise, for consideration, having at least one bed or other sleeping accommodation in a room or group of rooms.

"Transaction." The activity involving the obtaining by a transient or patron of the use or occupancy of a hotel room from which consideration is payable to the operator under an express or an implied contract.

"Transient." An individual who obtains accommodation in a hotel by means of registering at the facility for the temporary occupancy of a room for the personal use of the individual by paying a fee to the operator.

"Treasurer." The elected treasurer of the county or, if there is no elected treasurer of the county, such other official or agent of the county as may be designated by the county to collect and account for the tax authorized by this section.]

Section 3. The act is amended by adding sections to read:

Section 1770.10. Hotel Room Rental Tax in Third through Eighth Class Counties. --(a) A county may, by ordinance, impose a tax which shall be known as the hotel room rental tax on the consideration received by each operator of a hotel within the county from each transaction of renting a room or rooms to accommodate transients. The tax shall be collected

by the operator from the patron of the room and paid over to the county where the hotel is located as provided under this section.

(b) The rate of tax imposed under this section shall not exceed five per centum.

(c) The treasurer of each county electing to impose the tax authorized under this section shall collect the tax and deposit the revenues received from the tax in a special fund established for that purpose. Subsequent to the deduction for administrative costs established in subsection (i), the county shall distribute to the recognized tourist promotion agency all revenues received from the tax not later than sixty days after receipt of the tax revenues.

(d) The revenues from the special fund shall be used by the recognized tourist promotion agency for any of the following purposes:

(1) Marketing the area served by the agency as a leisure travel destination.

(2) Marketing the area served by the agency as a business, convention or meeting travel destination.

(3) Using all appropriate marketing tools to accomplish these purposes, including, but not limited to, advertising, publicity, publications, direct marketing, sales, technology and participation in industry trade shows that attract tourists or travelers to the area served by the agency.

(4) Programs, expenditures or grants that are directly and substantially related to tourism or a business, convention or meeting travel destination within the county, augment and do not compete with private sector tourism or travel efforts and improve and expand the county as a destination market as deemed necessary by the recognized tourist promotion agency. The following shall apply to grants awarded under this paragraph:

(i) Grants require a cash or in-kind local match of at least 25%.

(ii) Grants may not be used for signage that promotes a specific private entity on the situs of that entity, except where the signage also carries the logo of a recognized tourist promotion agency.

(5) Any other tourism or travel marketing or promotion program, expenditure or project that does not compete with private sector tourism or travel efforts as deemed necessary by the recognized tourist promotion agency.

(e) Each taxable year for any tax imposed under this section shall run concurrently with the county's fiscal year.

(f) An audited report or financial statement, as determined by the county in consultation with the recognized tourist promotion agency, on the income and expenditures incurred by a recognized tourist promotion agency receiving any revenues from the tax authorized under this section shall be submitted annually by the recognized tourist promotion agency to the county commissioners.

(g) (1) If a recognized tourist promotion agency fails to submit an annual audit report or financial statement required under subsection (f) within ninety days of the end of the recognized tourist promotion agency's fiscal year, the corresponding county may withhold tax revenues collected and deposited in a special fund under this section until the required annual audit report or financial statement is submitted to the county.

(2) In the event the county does not take action under paragraph (1) within one hundred twenty days of the end of the recognized tourist promotion agency's fiscal year, the Secretary

of Community and Economic Development may require the county to withhold tax revenues collected and deposited in a special fund under this section until the required annual audit report or financial statement is submitted to the county and the Department of Community and Economic Development.

(h) Any board member, director, officer or employe of a recognized tourist promotion agency shall disclose to the recognized tourist promotion agency the nature of any conflict of interest or financial interest and recuse himself or herself from any action taken on behalf of the recognized tourist promotion agency which may result in a private pecuniary benefit to the individual, a member of the individual's immediate family or a business with which the individual or a member of the individual's immediate family is associated.

(i) For the purposes of defraying the costs associated with the collection of the tax imposed under this section and otherwise performing its obligations under this section, the county may deduct and retain an administrative fee from the taxes collected under this section. The administrative fee shall be established by the county but shall not exceed four per centum of the taxes collected in any taxable year.

(j) A penalty of one and one-half per centum per month shall be imposed upon the operator of a hotel for failure to timely collect and remit the tax authorized by this section. In addition to other remedies available for collection of debts, the county may file a lien upon the hotel in the name of the county and for the use of the county as provided by law.

(k) The following words and phrases when used in this section shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Bed and breakfast" or "homestead." A public accommodation consisting of a private residence, which contains ten or fewer bedrooms, used for providing overnight accommodations to the public and in which breakfast is the only meal served and is included in the charge for the room.

"Cabin." A permanent structure with beds and running water that is located on a campground on State land or private property and is available to provide overnight lodging for consideration to persons seeking temporary accommodations. The term does not include a yurt or walled tent.

"Conflict of interest." Use by a board member, director, officer or employe of a recognized tourist promotion agency of the authority of his or her office or employment or any confidential information received through his or her capacity in relation to a recognized tourist promotion agency for the private pecuniary benefit of himself or herself, a member of his or her immediate family or a business with which he or she or a member of his or her immediate family is associated. The term does not include an action having a de minimis economic impact or which affects to the same degree a class consisting of the general public or a subclass consisting of an industry, occupation or other group which includes a board member, director, officer or employe, a member of his or her immediate family or business with which he or she or a member of his or her immediate family is associated.

"Consideration." Receipts, fees, charges, rentals, leases, cash, credits, property of any kind or nature or other payment received by operators in exchange for or in consideration of the use or occupancy by a transient of a room or rooms in a hotel for a temporary period.

"County." Any county of the third through eighth class that was authorized to levy a hotel occupancy or room rental tax under the former section 1770.2 or 1770.6.

"Hotel." A hotel, motel, inn, guesthouse, rooming house, bed and breakfast, homestead or other structure which holds itself out by any means, including advertising, license, registration with an innkeepers' group, convention listing association, travel publication or similar association or with a government agency, as being available to provide overnight lodging for consideration to persons seeking temporary accommodation; any place which advertises to the public at large or any segment thereof that it will provide beds, sanitary facilities or other space for a temporary period to members of the public at large; any place recognized as a hostelry or any cabin. The term does not include any of the following:

- (1) A charitable institution.
- (2) A portion of a facility that is devoted to persons who have an established permanent residence.
- (3) A college or university student residence hall currently occupied by students enrolled in a degree program.
- (4) An educational or religious institution camp for children, including a camp registered under the act of November 10, 1959 (P.L.1400, No.497), entitled "An act providing for the annual registration of organized camps for children, youth and adults; defining the duties of the Department of Health of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and prescribing penalties."
- (5) A hospital.
- (6) A nursing home.
- (7) Part of a campground that is not a cabin.

"Immediate family." A spouse, parent, brother, sister or child.

"Marketing." An action by a recognized tourism promotion agency that includes, but is not limited to, promoting and encouraging visitors to visit a specific county, counties or geographic region.

"Occupancy." The use or possession or the right to the use or possession by any person other than a permanent resident of any room in a hotel for any purpose or the right to the use or possession of the furnishings or to the services accompanying the use and possession of the room.

"Operator." Any individual, partnership, nonprofit or profit-making association or corporation or other person or group of persons who maintain, operate, manage, own, have custody of or otherwise possess the right to rent or lease overnight accommodations in a building to the public for consideration.

"Patron." Any person who pays the consideration for the occupancy of a room or rooms in a hotel.

"Permanent resident." A person who has occupied or has the right to occupancy of a room or rooms in a hotel as a patron or otherwise for a period exceeding thirty consecutive days.

"Recognized tourist promotion agency." The nonprofit corporation, organization, association or agency which is engaged in planning and promoting programs designed to stimulate and increase the volume of tourist, visitor and vacation business within a county and certified by the county as of the effective date of this subsection or under section 1770.11.

"Room." A space in a building set aside for use and occupancy by patrons or otherwise, for consideration, having at least one bed or other sleeping accommodations provided.

"Transaction." The activity involving the obtaining by a transient or patron of the use or occupancy of a hotel room

from which consideration emanates to the operator under an expressed or implied contract.

"Transient." An individual who obtains accommodation in a hotel by means of registering at the facility for the temporary occupancy of a room for the personal use of the individual by paying a fee to the operator.

Section 1770.11. Certification of Recognized Tourist Promotion Agencies.-- (a) A county may certify a nonprofit corporation, organization, association or agency to serve as the county's recognized tourist promotion agency. The county may not have more than one recognized tourist promotion agency.

(b) (1) A county must certify a recognized tourist promotion agency under subsection (a) by proper resolution of the governing body of the county, concurred in by resolution of the governing bodies of cities, boroughs, towns or townships within the county which have an aggregate of more than fifty per centum of the total population of the county as determined by the most recently completed Federal decennial census.

(2) A recognized tourist promotion agency shall operate until that agency has dissolved as an entity, withdrawn its certification or has been decertified by the county under subsection (c).

(c) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a county may decertify a recognized tourist promotion agency by proper resolution of the governing body of a county, concurred in by resolution of the governing bodies of cities, boroughs, towns or townships within the county which have an aggregate of more than sixty-five per centum of the total population of the county as determined by the most recently completed Federal decennial census.

(2) The county shall hold at least one public hearing on decertification no less than seven days before a meeting to adopt a resolution under this subsection.

(3) This subsection shall apply to recognized tourist promotion agencies, regardless of the date on which they were recognized under the act of July 4, 2008 (P.L. 621, No.50), known as the Tourism Promotion Act, or certified by the county under this section.

Section 1770.12. Hotel Room Rental in Second Class and Second Class A Counties.--

(a) (1) The county commissioners in each county of the second class are authorized to impose an excise tax at five per centum on the consideration received by each operator of a hotel within the county from each transaction of renting a room or rooms to accommodate transients.

(2) The county commissioners in each county of the second class A are authorized to impose an excise tax not to exceed five per centum on the consideration received by each operator of a hotel within the county from each transaction of renting a room or rooms to accommodate transients.

(3) The tax shall be collected by the operator from the patron of the room and paid over to the county as provided in this section.

(b) The treasurer of each county of the second class electing to impose the tax authorized under this section is directed to collect the tax and to deposit the revenue received from the tax in a special fund. The revenues shall be distributed by the county commissioners as follows:

(1) Except as set forth in clause (4), two-fifths of the revenue received by the county from the excise tax shall be distributed to a tourist promotion agency pursuant to section

2199.14 of the act of July 28, 1953 (P.L.723, No.230), known as the "Second Class County Code."

(2) Except as set forth in clause (4), one-third of the tax collected by hotels within a municipality where a convention center or exhibition hall is located, less the cost of collecting the tax, shall, at the request of that municipality, be returned to that municipality for deposit in that municipality's special fund established solely for purposes of paying for promotional programs implemented by a nonprofit organization which are designed to stimulate and increase the volume of conventions and visitors within the municipality or as provided in clause (5), subject to the following requirements:

(i) An audited report on the income and expenditures incurred by the municipality receiving funds from the excise tax on hotel room rentals shall be made annually to county.

(ii) The members of the board of directors or other governing body of the nonprofit organization utilized by the municipality to provide the promotional programs shall be appointed by the governing body of the municipality.

(2.1) Except as set forth in clause (4), a five per centum fee shall be paid to the county for collecting the tax.

(3) Except as set forth in clause (4), all remaining revenue from the tax received by the county, after paying the amounts set forth in clauses (1), (2) and (2.1), shall be used for operational and maintenance expenditures of the convention center or exhibition hall as provided in subsection (d) and for regional tourist promotion activities.

(4) Subject to clause (4.1), if bonds are issued by the public authority to provide permanent financing or refinancing of the expansion of and capital improvements to the convention center or exhibition hall, the revenue received from the tax and deposited in the special fund shall not be distributed as set forth in clauses (1) through (3) but shall be distributed by the county commissioners in the order of priority as follows:

(i) First, to the payment of all amounts set forth in clause (2).

(ii) Second:

(A) to the trustee for the bonds in accordance with the provisions of the indenture pursuant to which the bonds are issued, to be used for the payment of debt service on the bonds; and

(B) to the payment of all amounts set forth in clause (2.1):

(I) in full; or

(II) if the revenues are insufficient to make the payment in full, pro rata.

(iii) Third, to the payment of all amounts set forth in clause (1).

(iv) Fourth, as set forth in clause (3).

(4.1) Clause (4) shall not apply to bonds issued subsequent to the permanent financing for purposes of completion or subsequent expansions or capital improvements.

(5) If a convention center or exhibition hall discontinues operation in a municipality in which a convention center or exhibition hall is located, the municipality shall continue to collect and receive the tax, which shall be deposited by the municipality and used for the purposes as provided in clause (2).

(c) The treasurer of each county of the second class A electing to impose the tax authorized under this section is directed to collect the tax and to deposit the revenue in a special fund established solely for purposes of travel and

tourism promotion and advertising related to travel and tourism promotion. The treasurer is authorized to establish rules and regulations concerning the collection of the tax.

(d) (1) In counties of the second class, expenditures from the fund established under subsection (b) shall be used for all purposes which a public authority may determine to be reasonably necessary to the support, operation and maintenance of a convention center or exhibition hall, including the following:

(i) Advertising and publicizing tourist attractions in the area served by the recognized tourist promotion agency.

(ii) Promoting and otherwise encouraging the use of the facilities in the area served by the recognized tourist promotion agency by the public as a whole.

(iii) Promoting and attracting conventions, exhibitions and other functions to utilize facilities in the area served by the recognized tourist promotion agency.

(iv) Precompletion advertising and publicizing of any convention center or exhibition hall.

(v) Promoting and attracting conventions, exhibitions and other functions to utilize the convention center or exhibition hall.

(vi) Promoting and otherwise encouraging the use of the premises by the public as a whole or any segment of the public.

(vii) Operating, furnishing and otherwise maintaining and equipping the premises and realty appurtenant to the premises.

(viii) Furnishing and equipping the building and grounds.

(2) It is the intention of this subsection that the receipts from any tax imposed under this section after payment of the distributions under subsection (b)(1), (2), (2.1), (3) and (4) be used in the county to offset the entire operating deficit, if any, of any convention center or exhibition hall including equally, shares of any cooperating political subdivision or agency of government incurred pursuant to any agreement. The operating deficit shall be determined by the public authority which is the designated operating agency of the convention center or exhibition hall.

(e) (1) In counties of the second class A, expenditures from the fund established under subsection (c) shall be annually appropriated by the county commissioners for tourist promotion activities, to be executed by the recognized tourist promotion agency for the following:

(i) Marketing the area served by the recognized tourist promotion agency as a leisure travel destination.

(ii) Marketing the area served by the recognized tourist promotion agency as a convention, business or meeting travel destination.

(iii) Marketing the area served by the recognized tourist promotion agency to the public as a whole for use of its tourist and convention facilities.

(iv) Using all appropriate marketing tools to accomplish these purposes, including advertising, publicity, publications, direct marketing, sales, technology and participation in industry trade shows that attract tourists or travelers to the area served by the recognized tourist promotion agency.

(v) Programs, expenditures or grants that directly and substantially relate to tourism or a business, convention or meeting travel destination within a county of the second class A, that augment and do not compete with private sector tourism or travel efforts and that improve and expand a county of the second class A as a destination market as deemed necessary by the recognized tourist promotion agency. The following shall apply to grants awarded under this subclause:

(A) Grants shall have a cash or in-kind local match of at least twenty-five per centum.

(B) Grants may not be used for signage that promotes a specific private entity on the situs of the entity, except where the signage carries the logo of a recognized tourist promotion agency.

(vi) Any other tourism or travel marketing or promotion program, expenditure or project that does not compete with private sector tourism or travel efforts as deemed necessary by the recognized tourist promotion agency.

(2) For the purposes of defraying the costs associated with the collection of the tax imposed under this section and otherwise performing their obligations under this section, the county commissioners of a county of the second class A may deduct and retain an administrative fee from the taxes collected under this section. The administrative fee shall be established by the county of the second class A and shall not exceed four per centum of the taxes collected in any taxable year.

(3) As determined by a county of the second class A in consultation with the recognized tourist promotion agency, an audited report or financial statement of the income and expenditures incurred by a recognized tourist promotion agency receiving revenue from the tax authorized under this section shall be submitted annually by the recognized tourist promotion agency to the county commissioners.

(4) A penalty of one and one-half per centum per month shall be imposed upon the operator of a hotel in a county of the second class A for failure to timely collect and remit the tax authorized by this section. In addition to other remedies available for collection of debts, a county of the second class A may file a lien upon the hotel in the name of the county and for the use of the county as provided by law.

(f) (1) The provisions of this section relating to counties of the second class shall remain in force from year to year. The following apply:

(i) Revenue in excess of amounts needed to pay the distributions under subsection (b.1) (1), (2), (2.1), (3) and (4) and to offset operating deficits under subsections (b.1) (3) and (d) shall be determined by the public authority and may be accumulated.

(ii) At the discretion of the cooperating political subdivisions and the public authority, any revenue may be used to:

(A) provide part or all of an annual payment to be paid by a county or a political subdivision under an agreement with a public authority created under the act of July 29, 1953 (P.L.1034, No.270), known as the Public Auditorium Authorities Law, which has been designated as the operating agency for a convention center or exhibition hall; or

(B) effect necessary expansion or further capital improvements.

(2) The provisions of this section relating to counties of the second class A shall remain in force and effect for three years from February 14, 1986, and may be continued thereafter by ordinance or resolution of the county commissioners of the respective counties.

(g) Each taxable year for a tax imposed under this section shall run concurrently with the calendar year.

(h) The following words and phrases when used in this section shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Cabin." A permanent structure with beds and running water that is located on a campground on State land or private property and is available to provide overnight lodging for consideration to persons seeking temporary accommodations. The term does not include a yurt or walled tent.

"Consideration." Receipts, fees, charges, rentals, leases, cash, credits, property or other payment received by operators in exchange for or in consideration of the use or occupancy by a transient of a room in a hotel for a temporary period.

"Convention center or exhibition hall." A building or series of buildings:

(1) at least one of which contains a minimum of 75,000 gross square feet of exhibition space for shows and conventions;

(2) which are not used for the retail sale of merchandise or part of any shopping center, mall or other retail center; and

(3) a major function of which is to house meetings, exhibitions, shows, conventions, assemblies, convocations and similar gatherings. The term includes land appurtenant to the building or buildings.

"Cooperating political subdivision or agency of government." A city or public authority located in a county:

(1) within the boundaries of which a convention center or exhibition hall is planned or constructed; and

(2) which shares with the county duties, obligations or privileges with respect to that convention center.

"Hotel." A hotel, motel, inn, guesthouse, rooming house, bed and breakfast, homestead or other structure which holds itself out by any means, including advertising, license, registration with an innkeepers' group, convention listing association, travel publication or similar association or with a government agency, as being available to provide overnight lodging for consideration to persons seeking temporary accommodation; any place which advertises to the public at large or any segment thereof that it will provide beds, sanitary facilities or other space for a temporary period to members of the public at large; any place recognized as a hostelry or any cabin. The term does not include any of the following:

(1) A charitable institution.

(2) A portion of a facility that is devoted to persons who have an established permanent residence.

(3) A college or university student residence hall currently occupied by students enrolled in a degree program.

(4) An educational or religious institution camp for children, including a camp registered under the act of November 10, 1959 (P.L.1400, No.497), entitled "An act providing for the annual registration of organized camps for children, youth and adults; defining the duties of the Department of Health of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and prescribing penalties."

(5) A hospital.

(6) A nursing home.

(7) Part of a campground that is not a cabin.

"Municipality." Notwithstanding 53 Pa.C.S. § 8401 (relating to definitions), a township or borough or a home rule municipality which was formerly a township or borough.

"Occupancy." The use or possession or the right to the use or possession by any person other than a permanent resident of a room in a hotel for any purpose or the right to the use or possession of the furnishings or to the services accompanying the use and possession of the room.

"Operating deficit." The excess of expenses over receipts from the operation and management of a convention center or exhibition hall.

"Operator." Any individual, partnership, nonprofit or profit-making association or corporation or other person or group of persons that maintain, operate, manage, own, have custody of or otherwise possess the right to rent or lease overnight accommodations in a hotel to the public for consideration.

"Patron." A person that pays the consideration for the occupancy of a room in a hotel.

"Permanent resident." An individual who has occupied or has the right to occupancy of a room in a hotel as a patron or otherwise for a period exceeding thirty consecutive days.

"Recognized tourist promotion agency." The nonprofit corporation, organization, association or agency which is engaged in planning and promoting programs designed to stimulate and increase the volume of tourist, visitor and vacation business within a county and certified by the county pursuant to the act of July 4, 2008 (P.L.621, No.50), known as the Tourism Promotion Act.

"Regional tourist promotion activities." Services, activities, facilities and events, which result in a significant number of nonresidents visiting a county of the second class for recreational, cultural or educational purposes.

"Room." A space in a hotel set aside for use and occupancy by patrons, or otherwise, for consideration, having at least one bed or other sleeping accommodation.

"Substantial completion." Construction which is sufficiently completed in accordance with contract documents and certified by the convention center authority's architect or engineer, as modified by change orders so that:

(1) the main convention area can be used, occupied or operated for its intended use; and

(2) at least ninety per centum of the work on the main convention or exhibition area is complete.

"Temporary." A period of time not exceeding thirty consecutive days.

"Transaction." The activity involving the obtaining by a transient or patron of the use or occupancy of a hotel room from which consideration emanates to the operator under an express or an implied contract.

"Transient." An individual who obtains accommodation in any hotel for himself by means of registering at the facility for the temporary occupancy of any room for the personal use of that individual by paying to the operator of the facility a fee in consideration for the accommodation.

Section 4. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require a county that has imposed a tax under the former section 1770.2 or 1770.6 of the act to enact a new ordinance to impose the tax under section 1770.10 of the act if all of the following apply:

(1) The tax rate in the ordinance imposing the tax under the former section 1770.2 or 1770.6 of the act has not changed.

(2) The ordinance imposing the tax under the former section 1770.2 or 1770.6 of the act is otherwise consistent with section 1770.10 of the act.

Section 5. Repeals are as follows:

(1) The General Assembly declares that the repeal under paragraph (2) is necessary to effectuate the addition of section 1770.12 of the act.

(2) Section 8721 of Title 53 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is repealed.

(3) All acts and parts of acts are repealed insofar as they are inconsistent with this act.

Section 6. The addition of section 1770.12 of the act is a continuation of 53 Pa.C.S. § 8721. Except as otherwise provided in section 1770.12 of the act, all activities initiated under 53 Pa.C.S. § 8721 shall continue and remain in full force and effect and may be completed under section 1770.12 of the act. Orders, regulations, rules and decisions which were made under 53 Pa.C.S. § 8721 and which are in effect on the effective date of section 1770.12 of the act shall remain in full force and effect until revoked, vacated or modified under section 1770.12 of the act. Contracts, obligations and collective bargaining agreements entered into under 53 Pa.C.S. § 8721 are not affected by the repeal of 53 Pa.C.S. § 8721.

Section 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED--The 20th day of April, A.D. 2016.

TOM WOLF