

The House Committee on Ways and Means offers the following substitute to HB 304:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 13 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions concerning specific, business, and occupation taxes, so as to
3 change the provisions relating to the imposition and determination of the amount of certain
4 regulatory fees by local governments; to provide for the timing of payment of certain
5 regulatory fees; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 13 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 general provisions concerning specific, business, and occupation taxes, is amended by adding
11 a new subsection (e) to Code Section 48-13-9, relating to limitation on authority of local
12 government to impose regulatory fee, to read as follows:

13 "(e) For each business, profession, or occupation, local governments are authorized to
14 determine the amount of a regulatory fee imposed in accordance with this article only by
15 one of the following methods:

- 16 (1) A flat fee for each business or practitioner of a profession or occupation doing
17 business in the jurisdiction as authorized by Code Section 48-13-8;
- 18 (2) A flat fee for each type of permit or inspection requested;
- 19 (3) An hourly rate determined by the hourly wage or salary, including employee benefits,
20 of the person or persons assigned to investigate or inspect multiplied by the number of
21 hours estimated for the investigation or inspection to be performed;
- 22 (4) An hourly rate as determined by paragraph (3) of this subsection with the addition
23 of other expenses reasonably related to such regulatory activity, such as administrative
24 and travel expenses, multiplied by the number of hours estimated for the investigation or
25 inspection to be performed;

1 (5) For construction projects that are classified as new construction, the number of
 2 square feet of construction or the number of square feet of construction to be served by
 3 the system to be installed, in conjunction with and limited by the building valuation data,
 4 as established from time to time by the International Code Council or by similar data, and
 5 in conjunction with and limited by the hourly rate described in paragraph (3) or (4) of this
 6 subsection; or

7 (6) For construction projects that are classified as renovation and all other construction
 8 projects other than those classified as new construction, the cost of the project in
 9 conjunction with and limited by the building valuation data that conforms with the
 10 principles and methods established from time to time by the International Code Council
 11 or by similar data, and in conjunction with and limited by the hourly rate described in
 12 paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection."

13 SECTION 2.

14 Said article is further amended by striking subsections (b) and (c) of Code Section 48-13-20,
 15 relating to time for payment of fees and taxes, and inserting in lieu thereof new subsections
 16 (b) and (c) to read as follows:

17 "(b) Regulatory fees authorized by this chapter shall be paid before commencing business
 18 or the practice of a profession or occupation as a condition precedent for transacting
 19 business, or practicing a profession or occupation.

20 (c) Regulatory fees may be paid after commencing business or the practice of a profession
 21 or occupation when:

22 (1) The work done or services provided are necessary for the health, comfort, or safety
 23 of one or more individuals or protection of property. This paragraph shall apply to, but
 24 not be limited to, the repair, service, or installation of heating, ventilation, and air
 25 conditioning equipment or systems;

26 (2) The work done or services provided have no adverse effect on any other person; ~~and~~

27 (3) Regulatory fees are tendered to the local government within two business days after
 28 commencing business or the practice of a profession or occupation and any and all
 29 required inspections are made in order to ensure compliance with applicable codes; and

30 (4) The request for repair, service, or installation is received by the practitioner of a
 31 profession or occupation outside of the regular office hours of the local government's
 32 permitting office."

33 SECTION 3.

34 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.