

House Bill 317

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Frye of the 118<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 133<sup>rd</sup>, Rich of the 97<sup>th</sup>, and Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 13 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to excise tax on rooms, lodgings, and accommodations, so as to revise the definition  
3 of "innkeeper" to include marketplace facilitators; to define the term "marketplace  
4 innkeeper"; to expand the state levy of a nightly excise tax to include all rooms, lodgings, and  
5 accommodations; to provide for exceptions; to provide for related matters; to provide for an  
6 effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 3 of Chapter 13 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
10 excise tax on rooms, lodgings, and accommodations, is amended in Code Section 48-13-50.2,  
11 relating to definitions, by revising paragraph (2) and adding a new paragraph to read as  
12 follows:

13 ~~"(2) 'Innkeeper' means any person who is subject to taxation under this article for the~~  
14 ~~furnishing for value to the public any rooms, lodgings, or accommodations;~~

15 (A) Any person that furnishes for value to the public any room or rooms, lodgings, or  
16 accommodations in a county or municipality and that is licensed by, or required to pay

business or occupation taxes to, such municipality or county for operating a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly furnished for value; or

(B) A dealer as defined in subparagraph (M.3) of paragraph (8) of Code Section 48-8-2 that is required to collect and remit the tax imposed by Article 1 of Chapter 8 of this title for acting as a marketplace facilitator as such term is defined in paragraph (18.1) of Code Section 48-8-2 for facilitating the furnishing for value to the public any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations on behalf of another person.

(2.1) 'Marketplace innkeeper' means an innkeeper as defined in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) of this Code section."

## **SECTION 2.**

Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 48-13-50.3, relating to additional tax imposed by innkeepers, forms for reporting, use of funds from additional taxes, and provisions for termination, as follows:

"48-13-50.3.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

(1) 'Extended stay rental' means providing for value to the public a hotel or motel room for longer than 30 consecutive days to the same customer.

~~(2) 'Innkeeper' means any person who is subject to taxation under this article for the furnishing for value to the public a hotel or motel room.~~

~~(3)~~ (3) 'Transportation purposes' means activities incident to providing and maintaining an adequate system of public roads and bridges in this state and for grants to counties for road construction and maintenance.

~~(4)~~(3) 'Transit' means regular, continuing shared-ride or shared-use surface transportation services that are made available by or funded by a public entity or quasi-public entity and are open to the general public or open to a segment of the general public defined by age,

disability, or low income. Such term includes services or systems operated by or under contract with the state, a state agency or authority, a local government, a community improvement district, or any other similar entity of this state and all accompanying infrastructure and services necessary to provide access to these modes of transportation. Such term excludes charter or sightseeing services; school bus services; courtesy shuttle and intrafacility or terminal services; limousine carriers; and ride share network services, transportation referral services, and taxi services as such terms are defined in Chapter 1 of Title 40 and which are not paid for by a public entity.

~~(5)~~(4) 'Transit projects' means and includes purposes to establish, enhance, operate, and maintain, or improve access to transit, including the issuance of grants for the provision of transit, the issuance of general obligation debt and other multiyear obligations to finance such projects, the financing of operations and maintenance of such projects once constructed, and the contracted purchase of transit from providers without direct capital investment.

~~(b) On or after July 1, 2015, each innkeeper in this state shall charge a \$5.00 per night fee to the customer, unless it is an extended stay rental, for each calendar day a hotel or motel room is rented or leased. The innkeeper shall collect the fee at the time the customer pays for the rental or lease of such hotel or motel room. The innkeeper collecting the fee shall remit the fee on a monthly basis to the department.~~

(b)(1) On and after July 1, 2021, an excise tax of \$5.00 per night shall be levied upon the rental or lease of any room, lodging, or accommodation by an innkeeper.

(2) Taxes levied pursuant to this Code section shall be collected by the innkeeper from the customer at the time the customer pays for its rental or lease of any room, lodging, or accommodation. Any innkeeper collecting such taxes shall remit the amounts collected to the department on a monthly basis.

(3) Extended stay rentals shall be exempt from the tax levied by this Code section.

(4) Lodging or accommodations that do not provide physical shelter shall be exempt from the tax levied by this Code section.

(c) The commissioner shall promulgate and make available forms for the use of innkeepers to assist in compliance with this Code section. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations as necessary to implement and administer the provisions of this Code section.

(d) It is the intention of the General Assembly, subject to appropriations, that the fees collected pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section shall be made available and used exclusively for transportation purposes in this state with up to 10 percent of the fees collected to be appropriated for transit projects.

(e) If the amount collected under this Code section is ever not appropriated for a fiscal year as provided by subsection (d) of this Code section, as determined jointly by the House Budget and Research Office and the Senate Budget and Evaluation Office, then the amount collected shall be reduced by 50 percent. Upon the conclusion of a second fiscal year in which the amount collected is not so appropriated, this Code section shall stand repealed and reserved, and such fees shall cease to be collected, on the date the appropriations Act for such fiscal year becomes effective. Such budget offices shall certify any such lack of appropriation to the Code Revision Commission for purposes of updating the Code in accordance with this subsection."

### SECTION 3.

Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"48-13-50.4.

(a) A marketplace innkeeper shall constitute the innkeeper with respect to the transactions taxable pursuant to this article that it facilitates on behalf of another person. All taxes levied or imposed by this article on transactions facilitated by a marketplace innkeeper shall be paid by the purchaser to the marketplace innkeeper.

95 (b) The marketplace innkeeper shall remit all taxes in the manners provided in this article  
96 and, when received by the taxing authority, such taxes shall be credited against the taxes  
97 imposed by this article on the furnishing for value to the public any room or rooms,  
98 lodgings, or accommodations.

99 (c) Each marketplace innkeeper shall be liable for the full amount of taxes levied or  
100 imposed by this article on its transactions or the amount of tax collected by such  
101 marketplace innkeeper from all purchasers on all such transactions, whichever is greater.

102 (d) A transaction that is not taxable to the purchaser shall not be taxable to the marketplace  
103 innkeeper. Taxes collected and remitted by a marketplace innkeeper pursuant to this article  
104 shall be subject to the credit otherwise granted by this article for like taxes previously paid  
105 in another state.

106 (e) This Code section shall not be construed to require a duplication in the payment of any  
107 tax.

108 (f) A person shall not be obligated to collect and remit or be liable for the taxes levied or  
109 imposed by this article on any transaction for which its marketplace innkeeper is obligated  
110 and liable.

111 (g) The taxing authority shall only audit the marketplace innkeeper for sales made by it on  
112 behalf of another person except to the extent the marketplace innkeeper seeks relief through  
113 subsection (h) of this Code section.

114 (h) A marketplace innkeeper is relieved of liability for failure to collect and remit the  
115 correct amount of tax imposed by this article to the extent that the marketplace innkeeper  
116 demonstrates to the satisfaction of the taxing authority that the error was due to insufficient  
117 or incorrect information given to the marketplace innkeeper by the person on whose behalf  
118 the sale was facilitated and the marketplace innkeeper made a reasonable effort to obtain  
119 correct and sufficient information from such person; provided, however, that this  
120 subsection shall not apply if the marketplace innkeeper and such person are related  
121 members as defined in Code Section 48-7-28.3. If a marketplace innkeeper is relieved of

liability under this subsection, the person on whose behalf the sale was facilitated shall be solely liable for the amount of uncollected tax."

#### SECTION 4.

Said article is further amended in Code Section 48-13-51, relating to county and municipal levies on public accommodations, by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (a), paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b), and subsection (b.1) as follows:

"(a)(1)(A)(i) The governing authority of each municipality in this state may levy and collect an excise tax upon the furnishing for value to the public of any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations facilitated or furnished by an innkeeper ~~any person or legal entity licensed by, or required to pay business or occupation taxes to, the municipality for operating a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly furnished for value.~~

(ii) Within the territorial limits of the special district located within the county, each county in this state may levy and collect an excise tax upon the furnishing for value to the public of any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations facilitated or furnished by ~~any person or legal entity licensed by, or required to pay business or occupation taxes to, the county for operating within the special district a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly furnished for value~~ an innkeeper.

(iii) The provisions of this Code section shall control over the provisions of any local ordinance or resolution to the contrary enacted pursuant to Code Section 48-13-53 and in effect prior to July 1, 1998, or enacted pursuant to this article and in effect prior to July 1, 2021. Any such ordinance shall not be deemed repealed by this Code section but shall be administered in conformity with this Code section.

(B)(i) The excise tax shall be imposed on ~~any person or legal entity licensed by or required to pay a business or occupation tax to the governing authority imposing the tax for operating a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly furnished for value~~ the innkeeper and shall apply to the furnishing for value of any room, lodging, or accommodation. Every person or entity subject to a tax levied as provided in this Code section shall, except as provided in this Code section, be liable for the tax at the applicable rate on the lodging charges actually collected or, if the amount of taxes collected from the ~~hotel or motel~~ guest is in excess of the total amount that should have been collected, the total amount actually collected must be remitted.

(ii) Any tax levied as provided in this Code section is also imposed upon every person or entity who is a ~~hotel or motel~~ guest and who receives a room, lodging, or accommodation that is subject to the tax levied under this Code section. Every such guest subject to the tax levied under this Code section shall pay the tax to the ~~person or entity~~ innkeeper providing or facilitating the room, lodging, or accommodation. The tax shall be a debt of the person obtaining the room, lodging, or accommodation to the ~~person or entity~~ innkeeper providing or facilitating such room, lodging, or accommodation until it is paid and shall be recoverable at law by the ~~person or entity~~ innkeeper providing or facilitating such room, lodging, or accommodation in the same manner as authorized for the recovery of other debts. The ~~person or entity~~ innkeeper collecting the tax from the ~~hotel or motel~~ guest shall remit the tax to the governing authority imposing the tax, and the tax remitted shall be a credit against the tax imposed by division (i) of this subparagraph on the ~~person or entity~~ innkeeper providing or facilitating the room, lodging, or accommodation.

(C) Reserved.

(D) Except as provided in paragraphs (2.1), (2.2), (3), (3.1), (3.2), (3.3), (3.4), (3.5), (3.7), (4), (4.1), (4.2), (4.3), (4.4), (4.5), (4.6), (4.7), (5), (5.1), (5.2), and (5.3) of this subsection, no tax levied pursuant to this Code section shall be levied or collected at a rate exceeding 3 percent of the charge to the public for the furnishings."

"(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (a) of this Code section, any new excise taxes which are first levied pursuant to this Code section after July 1, 2008, or any new excise tax which is first levied following the termination of a previous levy pursuant to this Code section after July 1, 2008, shall be levied pursuant to this subsection.

(2) The governing authority of each municipality in this state may levy an excise tax pursuant to this subsection at a rate not to exceed 8 percent of the charge for the furnishing for value to the public of any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations furnished or facilitated by ~~any person or legal entity licensed by, or required to pay business or occupation taxes to, the municipality for operating a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly or periodically furnished for value~~ an innkeeper.

(3) Within the territorial limits of the special district located within the county, each county in this state may levy an excise tax pursuant to this subsection at a rate not to exceed 8 percent of the charge for the furnishing for value to the public of any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations furnished or facilitated by ~~any person or legal entity licensed by, or required to pay business or occupation taxes to, the county for operating within the special district a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly or periodically furnished for value~~ an innkeeper."

"(b.1) As an alternative to the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section, any county (within the territorial limits of the special district located within the county) and any municipality which is levying a tax under this Code section at the rate of 6 percent under



paragraph (3.4) or (4) of subsection (a) of this Code section shall be authorized to levy a tax under this Code section at the rate of 7 percent in the manner provided in this subsection. Both the county and municipality shall adopt a resolution which shall specify that an amount equal to the total amount of taxes collected under such levy at a rate of 6 percent shall continue to be expended as it was expended pursuant to either paragraph (3.4) or (4) of subsection (a) of this Code section, as applicable, and such resolution shall specify the manner of expenditure of funds for an amount equal to the total amount of taxes collected under such levy that exceeds the amount that would be collected at the rate of 6 percent for any tourism, convention, or trade show purposes, tourism product development purposes, or any combination thereof. Each resolution shall be required to be ratified by a local Act of the General Assembly. Only when both such local Acts have become law, the governing authority of the county and municipality shall be authorized to levy an excise tax pursuant to this subsection at the rate of 7 percent of the charge for the furnishing for value to the public of any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations furnished or facilitated by ~~any person or legal entity licensed by, or required to pay business or occupation taxes to, the municipality for operating a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly or periodically furnished for value~~ an innkeeper."

## SECTION 5.

This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2021, and shall apply to each incidence of the furnishing for value to the public any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations occurring on or after July 1, 2021; provided, however, that the provisions of Section 2 of this Act shall not be applicable to any rental or lease for value to the public of any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations which are not hotel or motel rooms for which a reservation was made and any payment or deposit was tendered prior to July 1, 2021.

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**SECTION 6.**

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