

House Bill 783

By: Representatives Mallow of the 163<sup>rd</sup>, Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, and Gilliard of the 162<sup>nd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To authorize the governing authority of the City of Savannah to levy an excise tax pursuant  
2 to subsection (b) of Code Section 48-13-51 of the O.C.G.A.; to provide procedures,  
3 conditions, and limitations; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date;  
4 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Pursuant to the authority of subsection (b) of Code Section 48-13-51 of the O.C.G.A., the  
8 governing authority of the City of Savannah is authorized to levy an excise tax at a rate not  
9 to exceed 8 percent of the charge for the furnishing for value to the public of any room or  
10 rooms, lodgings, or accommodations furnished by any person or legal entity licensed by, or  
11 required to pay business or occupation taxes to, the municipality for operating a hotel, motel,  
12 inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms,  
13 lodgings, or accommodations are regularly or periodically furnished for value.

**SECTION 2.**

The enactment of this Act is subsequent to the adoption of a resolution by the governing authority of the City of Savannah on February 25, 2021, which specifies the subsequent tax rate, identifies the projects or tourism product development purposes, and specifies the allocation of proceeds.

**SECTION 3.**

In accordance with the terms of such resolution adopted by the mayor and council of the City of Savannah:

(1) In each fiscal year during which a tax is collected pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of Code Section 48-13-51 of the O.C.G.A., an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the total amount of taxes collected that exceeds the amount of taxes that would be collected at the rate of 5 percent shall be expended for promoting tourism, conventions, and trade shows by the destination marketing organization designated by the City of Savannah or by such other entity already authorized to administer tourism funds pursuant to existing contract as specified in paragraph (2) of subsection (e) of Code Section 48-13-51 of the O.C.G.A.; and

(2) The remaining amount of taxes collected that exceeds the amount of taxes that would be collected at the rate of 5 percent which is not otherwise expended under paragraph (1) of this section shall be expended for tourism product development.

**SECTION 4.**

This Act shall become effective on April 1, 2022.

**SECTION 5.**

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