

February 14, 2001

H 105. BUNCOMBE COUNTY PRODUCT DEV. FUND. TO AUTHORIZE BUNCOMBE COUNTY TO LEVY AN ADDITIONAL ONE PERCENT ROOM OCCUPANCY AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT TAX, TO MODIFY THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE ROOM TAX MAY BE USED, AND TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES. Amends the Buncombe County Occupancy Tax to provide that the county commissioners may levy a 1% room occupancy and tourism development tax in addition to the 3% tax currently authorized. Taxes shall be levied, administered, collected and repealed as provided by GS 153A-155 and the penalties in GS 153A-155 apply. The County Tourism Development Authority (Authority) may not use more than 10% of the taxes for administrative expenses and it must allocate the funds as follows: $\frac{3}{4}$ to further the development of travel, tourism, and conventions through advertising and promotion; the remainder to a Tourism Product Development Fund (Fund), created to provide financial assistance for major tourism projects to increase patronage of county lodging facilities. The Authority shall administer the Fund pursuant to the following guidelines: (1) It shall create a Product Development Committee (Committee) to review and evaluate proposals for tourism capital projects and make recommendations to the Authority regarding use and disposition of funds. The Authority may award funds only upon recommendation of the Committee. The Authority may award grants and may guarantee loans and participate in pledges of debt service. Projects must be located in the county unless the Commissioners approve another location. Qualified applicants must provide a feasibility study; (2) A project must be expected to significantly increase patronage of lodging facilities in the county; (3) The Authority need not exhaust all funds generated each year; it may accumulate funds. The Authority may not commit to debt service more than 33% of net funds received in any year for a period of time in excess of 10 years and may not commit for debt service in excess of 10% of net funds received in any one year for any single project; and (4) The Committee need not be comprised solely of members of the Authority, provided that a majority of the Committee's members must be owners or operators of taxable tourist accommodations.

Intro. by Nesbitt, Cansler, Sherrill.

Ref. to Rules	BUNCOMBE
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March 28, 2001

H 105. PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR BUNCOMBE COUNTY. Intro. 2/14/01. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Makes technical changes only.

May 23, 2001

H 105. BUNCOMBE COUNTY PRODUCT DEV. FUND. Intro. 2/14/01. Senate amendment makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Provides that Product Development Committee to review proposals from applicants (was, qualified applicants) for tourism capital projects.

June 5, 2001

SL 2001-162 (H 105). BUNCOMBE COUNTY PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT FUND. AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE BUNCOMBE COUNTY TO LEVY AN ADDITIONAL ONE PERCENT ROOM OCCUPANCY AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT TAX, TO MODIFY THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE ROOM TAX MAY BE USED, AND TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES.

Summarized in *Daily Bulletin* 2/14/01, 3/28/01, and 5/23/01. Enacted June 4, 2001. Effective June 4, 2001.