

County of Tioga

Local Law No. XX of the Year 2020.

A Local Law providing for the collection of a hotel and motel tax in Tioga County.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the County of Tioga as follows:

SECTION 1: TITLE

This Local Law shall be known as the "Hotel/Motel Tax Law".

SECTION 2: PURPOSE

The purpose of this Local Law is to enhance the general economy of Tioga County, its cities, towns, and villages through promotion of tourists, activities, conventions, trade shows, special events, and other directly related and supporting activities.

SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS

HOTEL/MOTEL - Any facility or a portion thereof providing lodging on an over-night basis in exchange for any consideration, and shall include those facilities designated and commonly known as "bed and breakfast" and "tourist" facilities.

PERMANENT RESIDENT - A person occupying any room or rooms in a hotel or motel for at least fourteen (14) consecutive days.

PERSON – An individual, partnership, society, association, joint-stock company, corporation, estate, receiver, trustee, assignee, referee and any other person acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity, whether appointed by a court or otherwise, and any combination of the foregoing.

RENT – The consideration received for occupancy valued in money, whether received in money or otherwise.

RETURN – Any return filed or requested to be filed as herein provided.

SECTION 4: TAX

(A) A tax in the amount of four percent (4%) of the per diem rental rate for each room occupied, is hereby assessed on all hotels and motels in Tioga County,

provided, however, that such tax shall not be applicable to a permanent resident of a hotel or motel.

(B) Said tax shall be paid by the person occupying the room who shall be liable therefore to the owner of the hotel or motel room occupied or to the person entitled to be paid the rent or charge for the hotel or motel room occupied. Said tax shall be paid for and on account of the County of Tioga.

(C) Such owner or person entitled to be paid the rent or charge shall be liable for the collection and payment of the tax. Such owner or person entitled to be paid the rent or charge shall have the same right in respect to collecting the tax from the person occupying the hotel or motel room, or in respect to non-payment of the tax by the person occupying the hotel or motel room, as if the tax were a part of the rent or charge; provided, however, that the Tioga County Treasurer shall be joined as a part in any action or proceeding brought to collect the tax by the owner or by the person entitled to be paid the rent or charge.

(D) The filing of returns and the payment of the tax shall be paid to the Tioga County Treasurer on a quarterly basis by such means and in such manner as may be directed by the Tioga County Treasurer.

#### SECTION 5: PENALTY AND INTEREST

There shall be a penalty for failure to file said return and pay over the tax to the Tioga County Treasurer on the date due in the amount of ten (10%) per cent of the amount of the tax due plus interest at the rate of one percent (1%) of such tax for each month of delay, excepting the first month after such return was required to be filed or such tax became due.

#### SECTION 6: EXEMPTION

Such tax shall not be imposed on any transaction, by or with any of the following:

(A) The State of New York, or any public corporation (including a public corporation created pursuant to agreement or compact with another state or the dominion of Canada), improvement district or other political subdivision of the State.

(B) The United States of America, insofar as it is immune from taxation;

(C) Any corporation or association, or trust, or community chest, fund or foundation organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals, and no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual and no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation;

provided, however, that nothing in this paragraph shall include an organization operated for the primary purpose of carrying on a trade or business for profit, whether or not all of its profits are payable to one or more organizations described in this paragraph.

#### SECTION 7: JUDICIAL REVIEW

Any final determination of the amount of any tax payable hereunder shall be reviewable for error, illegality or unconstitutionality or any other reason whatsoever by a proceeding under article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules if application therefore is made to the supreme court within thirty days after the giving of the notice of such final determination, provided, however, that any such proceeding under article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules shall not be instituted unless:

(A) The amount of any tax sought to be reviewed, with such interest and penalties thereon as may be provided for, shall be first deposited and there is filed an undertaking, issued by a surety company authorized to transact business in this state and approved by the superintendent of insurance of this state as to solvency and responsibility, in such amount as a justice of the supreme court shall approve to the effect that if such proceeding be dismissed or the tax confirmed the petitioner will pay all costs and charges which may accrue in the prosecution of such proceeding; or

(B) At the option of the petitioner such undertaking may be in a sum sufficient to cover the taxes, interests and penalties stated in such determination plus the costs and charges which may accrue against it in the prosecution of the proceeding, in which event the petitioner shall not be required to pay such taxes, interest or penalties as a condition precedent to the application.

(C) Where any tax imposed hereunder shall have been erroneously, illegally or unconstitutionally collected and application for the refund thereof duly made to the Tioga County Treasurer, and he shall have made a determination denying such refund, such determination shall be reviewable by a proceeding under article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules, provided, however, that such proceeding is instituted within thirty days after the giving of the notice of such denial, that a final determination of tax due was not previously made, and that an undertaking is filed with the proper fiscal officer or officers in such amount and with such sureties as a justice of the supreme court shall approve to the effect that if such proceeding be dismissed or the tax confirmed, the petitioner will pay all costs and charges which may accrue in the prosecution of such proceeding.

#### SECTION 8: LIMITATION OF TIME

Except in the case of a willfully false or fraudulent return with intent to evade the tax, no assessment of additional tax shall be made after the expiration of more than three years from the date of the filing of a return, provided, however, that

where no return has been filed as provided by law the tax may be assessed at any time.

#### SECTION 9: APPLICATION OF FUNDS

All revenues resulting from the imposition of the tax under this local law shall be paid into the treasury of Tioga County and shall be credited to and deposited in the general fund of the County, thereafter to be allocated at the discretion of the County Legislature of the County of Tioga for the purposes of tourism and economic development; provided, however, that the County shall be authorized to retain up to a maximum of five percent of such revenue to defer the necessary expenses of the County in administering such tax. The revenue derived from the tax, after deducting the amount provided for administering such tax, shall be allocated to enhance the general economy of Tioga County, its cities, towns, and villages, through promotion of tourist activities, conventions, trade shows, special events, and other directly related and supporting activities.

#### SECTION 10: EFFECTIVE DATE

This local law shall become effective December 1, 2020 and shall remain in effect until November 30, 2023.

#### SECTION 11: SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this local law or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be held invalid, the remainder of this local law and the application of its provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.