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**By: Washington County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 23, 1996

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 20, 1996

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington County - Hotel Tax - Civil War Tourism**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the rate of the hotel tax imposed in Washington County for  
4 a certain fiscal year; providing for the distribution of the additional revenue  
5 collected under this Act; requiring the ~~Board of County Commissioners of~~  
6 ~~Washington County to include a certain appropriation in the county budget for a~~  
7 ~~certain fiscal year; requiring a certain convention and visitors bureau~~  
8 Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau to expend a  
9 certain amount for certain expenses for a certain fiscal year; requiring the Bureau to  
10 submit a certain report on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the use  
11 of a part of the hotel tax revenue collected in Washington County to promote Civil  
12 War tourism.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
14 Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions  
15 Section 9-304 and 9-318(b)(4) and (c)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
19 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions**

21 9-304.

22 (a) Subject to the limitations in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the hotel  
23 rental tax rate is the rate that the authorized county sets by resolution.

24 (b) An authorized county may not set a hotel rental tax rate that exceeds:

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- 1 (1) 3% in a code county;
- 2 (2) 5% in Calvert County;
- 3 (3) 3% in Cecil County;
- 4 (4) 5% in Charles County;
- 5 (5) 4% in Dorchester County;
- 6 (6) 5% in Garrett County;
- 7 (7) 5% in St. Mary's County;
- 8 (8) 3% in Somerset County;
- 9 (9) 3% in Talbot County;
- 10 (10) 3% in Washington County; and
- 11 (11) 5% in Wicomico County.

12 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (b)(1) of this section, a code county may set a  
13 hotel rental tax rate that is greater than 3%, but not exceeding 5%, with the unanimous  
14 consent of the county commissioners for the county.

15 9-318.

16 (b) (4) Washington County:

17 (i) May not deduct more than 5% of the revenue for administrative  
18 costs under subsection (a)(1) of this section; and

19 (ii) Shall deposit all remaining revenues, after the distribution under  
20 subsection (a)(1) of this section, in the general funds of Washington County to underwrite  
21 the Washington County tourism budget and, when established, the Washington County  
22 Convention Bureau.

23 (c) An authorized county shall make the distributions required under this section  
24 between the 15th day and the 30th day of each calendar month.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding Article  
26 24, §§ 9-304 and 9-318 of the Annotated Code of Maryland:

27 (1) for Fiscal Year 1997, the rate of the hotel tax imposed in Washington  
28 County shall be 3.5%;

29 (2) the additional revenue collected as a result of the increase in the tax rate  
30 under paragraph (1) of this section of this Act shall be distributed to the City of  
31 Hagerstown to be used for advertising and marketing expenses for promoting Civil War  
32 tourism in the Washington County area;

33 (3) ~~the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County shall include~~  
34 ~~in the county's budget for Fiscal Year 1998 an appropriation to, the~~  
35 Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau of shall expend at least

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1 \$55,000, ~~for the purpose of continuing the funding~~ for advertising and marketing expenses  
2 for promoting Civil War tourism; and

3 (4) on or before ~~October 1, 1996~~ January 1, 1997, the  
4 Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau shall submit a written  
5 report to the Washington County House and Senate Delegations on its plans for the  
6 reorganization and restructuring of its focus and duties, including information on its  
7 proposed use of funds for advertising and marketing expenses.

8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
9 July 1, 1996.