
DIGEST

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HB 521 Original

2019 Regular Session

Abramson

Abstract: Relative to Orleans Parish, requires, rather than authorizes, tourism organizations to levy hotel assessments on their members, subject to voter approval; authorizes the governing authority of the parish to levy and collect a hotel tax, subject to voter approval; limits the combined rate of the assessment and the tax to 2.5%.

Present law provides that it is in the state's public interest and vital to the welfare of the state's economy to facilitate and encourage cooperating public-private partnerships for the enhancement and expansion of the traveler economy and to provide for increased hotel occupancy, tourism, economic development and job creation in Orleans Parish.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law authorizes a tourism organization to levy a hotel assessment of up to 1.75% of the daily room charge upon its hotel members in Orleans Parish for destination marketing, sales, public relations and for other matters deemed by the tourism organization to benefit directly or indirectly economic development, the traveler economy and tourism growth. Requires that the assessment be approved by resolution of the board of directors of the tourism organization and ratified by a vote of the assessed hotels in a referendum conducted in accordance with present law.

Proposed law instead requires a tourism organization to levy a hotel assessment, subject to voter approval. Removes requirement that the assessment be ratified by a vote of the assessed hotels.

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of Orleans Parish, subject to voter approval, to levy and collect an additional hotel occupancy tax. Requires that the proceeds of the tax be deposited into the parish's infrastructure fund.

Proposed law provides that the combined rate of the tourism organization assessment and the hotel occupancy tax shall not exceed 2.5% of the rent or fee charged for such occupancy.

Effective July 1, 2019.

(Amends R.S. 21:202 and 204(A), (B), and (D); Adds R.S. 21:204(G) and R.S. 47:338.220; Repeals R.S. 21:203(1) and (7) and 206)