By: Representatives Felsher, Bennett, To: Local and Private Crawford, Haney, McKnight, Patterson, Eure Legislation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1757

- AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 1012, LOCAL AND PRIVATE LAWS OF 2004, TO CLARIFY THAT THE TWO PERCENT TAX LEVIED ON ROOM RENTALS OF HOTELS AND MOTELS IN HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, WHICH SUPPORTS THE IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI COAST COLISEUM 5 AND CONVENTION CENTER, SHALL SOLELY APPLY TO OVERNIGHT ROOM RENTALS OF THE HOTELS AND MOTELS AND SHALL NOT APPLY TO ANY 7 ANCILLARY REVENUES DERIVED FROM HOTEL OR MOTEL PATRONS; TO AMEND CHAPTER 58, LAWS OF THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF 1954, AS LAST 8 9 AMENDED BY CHAPTER 1012, LOCAL AND PRIVATE LAWS OF 2004, TO 10 CLARIFY THAT THE THREE PERCENT TAX LEVIED ON HOTELS AND MOTELS IN 11 HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, FOR THE PURPOSES OF PROVIDING 12 FUNDING TO PROMOTE TOURISM AND CONVENTIONS IN THE COUNTY, SHALL SOLELY APPLY TO OVERNIGHT ROOM RENTALS OF SUCH HOTELS AND MOTELS AND SHALL NOT APPLY TO ANY ANCILLARY REVENUES DERIVED FROM HOTEL 14 15 OR MOTEL PATRONS; TO PROVIDE FOR AN INDIRECT REFERENDUM ON THE 16 LEVYING OF SUCH TAX; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.
- 17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:
- 18 SECTION 1. Chapter 1012, Local and Private Laws of 2004, is
- 19 amended as follows:
- 20 Section 1. For the purposes of Sections 1 through 12 of this
- 21 act:
- 22 (a) "Board of supervisors" means the Board of
- 23 Supervisors of Harrison County, Mississippi.
- 24 (b) "County" means Harrison County, Mississippi.

25	(c) "Hotel" or "motel" means and includes any
26	establishment engaged in the business of furnishing or providing
27	more than ten (10) rooms intended or designed for dwelling,
28	lodging or sleeping purposes that at any one time will accommodate
29	transient guests on a daily or weekly basis and that are known to
30	the trade as such.
31	Section 2. (1) Before the issuance of bonds provided for in
32	Section 6 of this act, the board of supervisors shall levy, assess
33	and collect from every person, firm, corporation or other entity
34	operating hotels or motels in the county, a tax, in addition to
35	all other taxes or assessments now imposed, which shall be equal
36	to two percent (2%) of the gross proceeds from room rentals of all
37	hotels or motels in the county. However, such tax shall solely
38	apply to overnight room rentals of hotels and motels within the

- hotel or motel patrons including, but not limited to, resort fees,
 meeting rooms, pool passes and food and beverage sales.
- 42 (2) Persons, firms, corporations or other entities liable
 43 for the tax imposed by subsection (1) of this section shall add
 44 the amount of such tax to the room rental and in addition thereto
 45 shall collect, insofar as practicable, the amount of the tax due
 46 from the person renting the room at the time of payment therefor.

county and shall not apply to any ancillary revenues derived from

Section 3. (1) Before any tax authorized under Sections 1
through 12 of this act may be imposed, the governing authorities
shall adopt a resolution declaring its intention to levy the

50	taxes, setting forth the amount of such tax to be imposed, the
51	date upon which such taxes shall become effective and calling for
52	a referendum to be held on the question. The date of the
53	referendum shall be the first Tuesday after the first Monday in
54	November 2004. Notice of such intention shall be published once
55	each week for at least three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper
56	published or having a general circulation in the county, with the
57	first publication of such notice to be made not less than
58	twenty-one (21) days before the date fixed in the resolution for
59	the referendum and the last publication to be made not more than
60	seven (7) days before the referendum. At the referendum, all
61	qualified electors of the county may vote, and the ballots used in
62	such referendum shall have printed thereon a brief statement of
63	the amount and purposes of the proposed tax levy and the words
64	"FOR THE HOTEL-MOTEL TAX TO FUND THE IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF
65	THE MISSISSIPPI COAST COLISEUM AND CONVENTION CENTER" and, on a
66	separate line, "AGAINST THE HOTEL-MOTEL TAX TO FUND THE
67	IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI COAST COLISEUM AND
68	CONVENTION CENTER", and the voters shall vote by placing a cross
69	(X) or check ($\sqrt{\ }$) opposite their choice on the proposition. When
70	the results of any such referendum shall have been canvassed by
71	the election commission and certified, the county may levy the
72	taxes beginning on the first day of the second month following the
73	referendum, only if at least sixty percent (60%) of the qualified
74	electors who vote in the election vote in favor of the tax. No

- 75 public funds shall be used for the purpose of promoting the
- 76 adoption of the referendum and no employee of the county or any
- 77 city located in the county, other than elected public officials,
- 78 may promote the referendum during business hours.
- 79 (2) If a referendum has been held under the provisions of
- 80 subsection (1) of this section, and the authority of the county to
- 81 impose the convention center taxes has been denied by the electors
- 82 of the county, a subsequent referendum on the issue may be held on
- 83 the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2006. If a
- 84 second referendum is held, and the authority to impose the
- 85 convention center taxes has been denied again by the electors of
- 86 the county, no further referendum may be held.
- Section 4. (1) On or before the fifteenth day of the month
- 88 prior to the imposition of the tax authorized in Section 2 of this
- 89 act, the board of supervisors shall give written notification to
- 90 the * * * Commissioner of the Department of Revenue of the date on
- 91 which the tax will become effective.
- 92 (2) The tax shall be collected by and paid to the * *
- 93 Department of Revenue in the same manner as state sales taxes are
- 94 computed, collected and paid, and full enforcement provisions and
- 95 all other provisions of Chapter 65, Title 27, Mississippi Code of
- 96 1972, shall apply as necessary to the implementation of Sections 1
- 97 through 12 of this act.
- 98 (3) Except as otherwise provided in Section 27-3-58, the
- 99 revenue from the special tax collected under the provisions of

- this section during the preceding month shall be paid to the county on or before the fifteenth day of each month.
- 102 (4) The proceeds of such taxes shall be placed into a
 103 separate fund apart from the county general fund and any other
 104 funds of the county, and shall be expended by the county as
 105 provided in Section 10(1) of this act.
- 106 The tax imposed by Sections 1 through 12 of this act 107 shall stand repealed on the first day of the month immediately 108 succeeding the date the payment of the principal of, redemption premium, if any, and interest on the bonds issued pursuant to 109 110 Sections 1 through 12 of this act have been paid in full. Any 111 revenue from the tax remaining after the payment of the principal 112 of, redemption premium, if any, and interest on the bonds issued pursuant to Sections 1 through 12 of this act have been paid in 113 114 full shall be transferred to the county general fund.
- Section 5. The proceeds of the bonds issued pursuant to 116 Sections 1 through 12 of this act shall be utilized:
- (a) For the purpose of defraying the cost of

 118 constructing, repairing, equipping, remodeling, enlarging,

 119 expanding or improving the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and

 120 Convention Center; and

(b) To retire bonds issued by the county after May 1, 122 1995, but prior to the effective date of this act, to defray the cost of expanding the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center.

125	Section 6. The board of supervisors is authorized and
126	empowered, in its discretion, to issue general obligation bonds of
127	the county in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed
128	Sixty-eight Million Dollars (\$68,000,000.00) for the purposes
129	provided for in Section 5 of this act. As used in Sections 1
130	through 12 of this act, "bonds" shall be deemed to mean and
131	include bonds, refunding bonds, notes or certificates of
132	participation. The full faith and credit of the county shall be
133	irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and
134	interest on the bonds.
135	Section 7. Bonds authorized by Sections 1 through 12 of this
136	act, other than refunding bonds, shall be issued pursuant to
137	Sections 19-9-1 through 19-9-31 or as may be otherwise provided by
138	law; however, no election shall be held under the provisions of
139	Sections 19-9-1 through 19-9-31, upon the question of the issuance
140	of bonds authorized under Sections 1 through 12 of this act.
141	Section 8. Bonds issued pursuant to Sections 1 through 12 of
142	this act shall not be deemed indebtedness within the meaning of
143	Section 19-9-5. Bonds issued pursuant to Sections 1 through 12 of
144	this act shall be submitted by validation under Sections 31-13-1
145	through 31-13-11.
146	Section 9. Bonds issued under Sections 1 through 12 of this

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act may be refunded at any time and from time to time by the

county pursuant to an authorizing resolution of the board of

supervisors, directing issuance of refunding bonds in accordance

- 150 with the "Mississippi Bond Refinancing Act" (Section 31-27-1 et
- 152 Section 10. (1) The avails of the tax provided for in
- 153 Sections 1 through 12 of this act shall be used solely for the
- 154 payment of the principal of, redemption premium, if any, and
- interest on the bonds, and for the payment of expenses of issuance
- 156 thereof or reserve funds therefor.

seq., Mississippi Code of 1972).

- 157 (2) To the extent the proceeds of the tax provided for in
- 158 Sections 1 through 12 of this act and any other amounts which may,
- 159 from time to time, be available for the payment of the principal
- 160 of, redemption premium, if any, and interest on the bonds,
- 161 including any available revenues of the project, are not
- 162 sufficient for such purpose, the board of supervisors shall levy a
- 163 special ad valorem tax upon all of the taxable property within the
- 164 county which shall be sufficient, together with other money
- 165 available for such purpose, to provide for the payment of the
- 166 principal of, redemption premium, if any, and interest on such
- 167 bonds according to the terms thereof.
- Section 11. Sections 1 through 12 of this act shall be
- 169 liberally construed for the purposes herein set out, the power
- 170 hereby granted shall be deemed to be full and complete authority
- 171 for the issuance of bonds under Sections 1 through 12 of this act
- 172 and shall be construed as additional, cumulative and supplemental
- 173 to any power granted to the county by any general or local and
- 174 private act of the Legislature.

- Section 12. The provisions of Sections 1 through 12 of this act shall be repealed * * * from and after July 1, 2026.
- 177 Section 13. Chapter 58, Laws of the Extraordinary Session of
- 178 1954, as amended by Chapter 810, Local and Private Laws of 1966,
- 179 as amended by Chapter 820, Local and Private Laws of 1972, as
- 180 amended by Chapter 973, Local and Private Laws of 1979, as amended
- 181 by Chapter 881, Local and Private Laws of 1980, as amended by
- 182 Chapter 918, Local and Private Laws of 1990, as amended by Chapter
- 183 882, Local and Private Laws of 1991, as amended by Chapter 937,
- 184 Local and Private Laws of 1995, as amended by Chapter 989, Local
- 185 and Private Laws of 1999, as amended by Chapter 1012, Local and
- 186 Private Laws of 2004, is amended as follows:
- 187 Section 1. The Board of Supervisors of Harrison County,
- 188 Mississippi, in its discretion, may levy a special ad valorem tax
- 189 not in excess of one (1) mill upon all the taxable property
- 190 within * * * the county to provide funds for the Harrison County
- 191 Tourism Commission for the purpose of advertising, promoting
- 192 conventions, and bringing into favorable notice the opportunities,
- 193 possibilities and tourism resources of * * * the county.
- 194 Section 2. (1) For the purposes of providing funds to
- 195 promote tourism and conventions in Harrison County, there is
- 196 hereby levied and assessed against and shall be collected from
- 197 every person, firm or corporation operating hotels or motels in
- 198 Harrison County an assessment, in addition to all other taxes now
- 199 imposed, which shall be equal to three percent (3%) of the gross

200 proceeds from room rental of all such hotels or motels in Harrison 201 However, such tax shall solely apply to overnight room County. 202 rentals of hotels and motels within the county and shall not apply 203 to any ancillary revenues derived from hotel or motel patrons 204 including, but not limited to, resort fees, meeting rooms, pool 205 passes and food and beverage sales. Persons liable for the tax 206 imposed herein shall add the amount of tax to the room rental and 207 in addition thereto shall collect, insofar as practicable, the 208 amount of the tax due by him or her from the person receiving the 209 services or goods at the time of payment therefor.

- "motel" shall mean a place of lodging that at any one time will accommodate transient guests on a daily or weekly basis and that are known to the trade as such, including hotels, motels, bed and breakfast inns, time-share condominiums, tourist courts, rooming houses or other places where sleeping accommodations are furnished or offered for pay if more than ten (10) rooms are available for transient guests, excluding nursing homes or institutions for the aged or infirm as defined in Section 43-11-1 and personal care homes. Hotels and motels with ten (10) or less rental units are exempt.
- 221 (3) Such tax shall be collected by and paid to the * * *

 222 <u>Department of Revenue</u> on a form to be prescribed by the * * *

 223 <u>Department of Revenue</u> in the same manner that state sales taxes

 224 are collected and paid; and the full enforcement provisions and

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225	all	other	provisions	of	the	Mississippi	Sales	Tax	Law	shall	appl	-У
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- 226 as necessary for the implementation and administration of this
- 227 act.
- 228 (4) On or before the fifteenth day of the month following
- 229 the month in which collected, the proceeds of such tax, less three
- 230 percent (3%) to be retained by the \star \star Department of Revenue to
- 231 defray the costs of collection, shall be paid by the * * \star
- 232 department, as follows, for expenditure as authorized in this act:
- 233 (a) Until the date that the bonds issued by the board
- 234 of supervisors after May 1, 1995, and prior to the effective date
- 235 of House Bill No. 1823, 2004 Regular Session, for the purpose of
- 236 defraying the cost of expanding the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and
- 237 Convention Center are retired:
- 238 (i) Two-thirds (2/3) of the proceeds shall be paid
- 239 to the Harrison County Tourism Commission.
- 240 (ii) One-third (1/3) of the proceeds shall be paid
- 241 to the Board of Supervisors of Harrison County.
- 242 (b) From and after the date that the bonds issued by
- 243 the board of supervisors after May 1, 1995, and prior to the
- 244 effective date of House Bill No. 1823, 2004 Regular Session, for
- 245 the purpose of defraying the cost of expanding the Mississippi
- 246 Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, are retired:
- 247 (i) Two-thirds (2/3) of the proceeds shall be paid
- 248 to the Harrison County Tourism Commission.

(ii) Twenty-five percent (25%) of the remaining one-third (1/3) of the proceeds shall be paid to the Harrison County Tourism Commission and seventy-five percent (75%) of the remaining one-third (1/3) of the proceeds shall be paid to the Board of Supervisors of Harrison County.

Section 3. The Harrison County Tourism Commission shall be composed of seven (7) members, appointed as hereinafter provided. The board of supervisors shall appoint two (2) members of the commission who are qualified electors of the City of Biloxi; two (2) members who are qualified electors of the City of Gulfport; one (1) member who is a qualified elector of the City of Pass Christian; one (1) member who is a qualified elector of the City of Long Beach; and one (1) member who is a qualified elector of the County of Harrison outside of the boundaries of the four (4) municipalities in the county. In the selection of commissioners, the board shall make every effort to select individuals who are knowledgeable of, or actively involved in, the tourism industry. The * * * commission shall be appointed within sixty (60) days of

the effective date of this act, in the following manner:

- 268 (1) Two (2) members for one (1) year.
- 269 (2) Two (2) members for two (2) years.
- 270 (3) One (1) member for three (3) years.
- 271 (4) One (1) member for four (4) years.
- 272 (5) One (1) member for five (5) years.

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273	The board shall draw lots to determine which of the seven (7)
274	members of the commission shall be appointed for the various
275	initial terms of office. Provided, however, that all subsequent
276	appointments shall be made for five-year terms, except that the
277	board shall appoint a member to fill a vacancy for the unexpired
278	term only. Within sixty (60) days after the effective date of
279	House Bill No. 1716, 1990 Regular Session, the board of
280	supervisors shall appoint two (2) additional members to the
281	Tourism Commission. The board of supervisors shall appoint one
282	(1) member who is a qualified elector of the City of D'Iberville
283	and one (1) member who is a qualified elector of the County of
284	Harrison for a term of five (5) years. All subsequent
285	appointments shall be for a term of five (5) years and an
286	appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for the unexpired term
287	only. Before entering on the duties of the office each appointed
288	member of the Tourism Commission shall enter into and give bond to
289	be approved by the Secretary of State of the State of Mississippi
290	in the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) conditioned on
291	the satisfactory performance of his duties. This bond's premium
292	shall be paid from the Tourism Commission Fund. Such bond shall
293	be payable to Harrison County and in the event of a breach
294	thereof, suit may be brought by the county for the benefit of the
295	Tourism Commission. The commission may authorize the payment of
296	per diem not to exceed the uniform per diem rate provided in
297	Section 25-3-69, Mississippi Code of 1972, to commission members

298 for each day in the discharge of their official duties. Such per 299 diem expenditures shall be included in the annual budget of the 300 commission and shall be subject to approval of the Harrison County 301 Board of Supervisors. The commission shall elect officers and 302 adopt rules and regulations; and shall fix a regular meeting date, 303 but may provide for special meetings. The commission shall keep 304 minutes of its proceedings, as are necessary to carry out its 305 responsibilities under this act. It is the intent of this 306 enactment to supersede the Advisory Commission and those duties 307 performed by the board of supervisors pursuant to Chapter 820, Local and Private Laws of 1972, with the commission herein 308 309 created, and to provide for the orderly transfer of all duties and 310 powers heretofore exercised by those bodies to the Harrison County 311 Tourism Commission, which shall have the sole authority to budget 312 and contract for expenditures for the fiscal year beginning 313 October 1, 1979, subject to the approval of the board of 314 supervisors as herein provided. 315 Section 4. Before the expenditures of funds allocated to it 316 by this act, the Tourism Commission shall annually adopt a budget 317 that will reflect the anticipated expenditures for promotion, 318 advertising and operation. Such budget shall be subject to the 319 approval of the Harrison County Board of Supervisors and shall 320 comply with all the requirements of the general laws of the State 321 of Mississippi covering the advertisement for bids and the expenditure of funds. 322

323	Section 5. The Harrison County Tourism Commission
324	established hereunder shall have the authority to promote tourism
325	and in this regard the commission is empowered:

- 326 (a) To receive and expend revenues from any sources 327 including, but not limited to, private enterprise;
- 328 (b) To own, lease or contract for the use, purchase or
 329 lease of any real or personal property, including, but not limited
 330 to, furnishings, fixtures and any equipment useful and necessary
 331 in the promotion of tourism and convention business;
- 332 (c) To sell, convey or otherwise dispose of all or any 333 part of its property and assets in accordance with general laws of 334 the State of Mississippi providing for such disposal;
 - (d) To have and exercise all powers necessary or convenient to effect any and all of the purposes for which the commission is organized, and further, to appoint and employ individuals and agencies acting in its behalf for any and all of the aforementioned powers and responsibilities;
- (e) To have and exercise all powers necessary and convenient to conduct the business of promoting and managing conventions and to carry out the purposes of the convention staff of the Mississippi Coast Coliseum Commission by agreement between the two (2) commissions.
- 345 Section 6. The Advisory Commission, created and established 346 under the provisions of Chapter 820, Local and Private Laws of 347 1972, shall be and the same is hereby abolished effective October

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348	1, 1979, and the commissioners and all members, agents,
349	representatives and employees of the * * * Advisory Commission and
350	the Harrison County Board of Supervisors are required and directed
351	to cooperate with the Harrison County Tourism Commission to
352	effectuate an orderly transfer of its duties to that commission in
353	accordance with this act, and to deliver to the Harrison County
354	Tourism Commission all property, funds, money, accounts, records,
355	etc., now in their possession, which were transferred to the board
356	of supervisors pursuant to Chapter 820, Local and Private Laws of
357	1972, such delivery to be made not later than October 1, 1979, and
358	where required, in such cases as real property, if any, the
359	Chairman of the * * * Advisory Commission and the Secretary
360	thereof or the President of the Harrison County Board of
361	Supervisors are authorized, empowered and directed to make,
362	execute and deliver in favor of the Harrison County Tourism
363	Commission any bill of sale, deed or other document required to
364	transfer title of any property transferred pursuant to Chapter
365	820, Local and Private Laws of 1972, which was held in the name of
366	the County Advertising Commission. Nothing herein shall be
367	construed to waive the rights of compelling such action by a writ
368	of mandamus in accordance with the laws of Mississippi. Provided
369	further, that on October 1, 1979, all rights of office of any of
370	the commissioners of the Advisory Commission, its attorneys or
371	agents, be and the same are hereby finally determined and ended,

372	and i	ts	former	employees	shall	serve	at	the	pleasure	of	the
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- 373 Tourism Commission.
- 374 Section 7. (1) Until the date the bonds issued by the
- 375 county after May 1, 1995, but prior to the effective date of House
- 376 Bill No. 1823, 2004 Regular Session, to defray the costs of
- 377 expanding the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center
- 378 have been retired, and the bonds issued under the provisions of
- Sections 1 through 12 of House Bill No. 1823, 2004 Regular 379
- 380 Session, have been retired, the Board of Supervisors of Harrison
- County shall deposit the funds allocated to it by Section 2(4) of 381
- 382 this act into a special fund in the county treasury.
- 383 Monies in the special fund shall be expended by the (2)
- 384 board of supervisors to:
- 385 Pay the principal of and interest on up to Ten
- 386 Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) of general obligation bonds
- issued by the county after May 1, 1995, but prior to the effective 387
- 388 date of House Bill No. 1823, 2004 Regular Session, to defray the
- 389 costs of expanding the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention
- 390 Center, and/or
- 391 Pay the principal of and interest on general (b)
- 392 obligation bonds issued by the county pursuant to Sections 1
- through 12 of House Bill No. 1823, 2004 Regular Session. 393
- 394 Section 8. (1) If the tax levied under this act was imposed
- 395 without a vote of the electorate, the board of supervisors shall,
- within sixty (60) days after the effective date of House Bill No. 396

397	1757, 2022 Regular Session, by resolution spread upon its minutes,
398	declare the intention of the board of supervisors to continue
399	imposing the tax and describe the tax levy including the tax rate,
100	annual revenue collections and the purposes for which the proceeds
101	are used. The resolution shall be published once a week for at
102	least three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper published or
103	having a general circulation in the county, with the first
104	publication to be made within fourteen (14) days after the board
105	of supervisors adopts the resolution declaring its intention to
106	continue the tax. If, on or before the date specified in the
107	resolution for filing a written protest, which date shall be not
108	less that forty-five (45) days and not more than sixty (60) days
109	after the board of supervisors adopts the resolution, twenty
110	percent (20%) or one thousand five hundred (1,500), whichever is
111	less, of the qualified electors of the county file a written
112	protest against the imposition of the tax, then an election upon
113	the continued levy and assessment of the tax shall be called and
114	held with the election to be conducted at the next election
115	occurring more than sixty (60) days after the date specified in
116	the resolution for filing a written protest. If the requisite
117	number of qualified electors vote against the imposition of the
118	tax, the tax shall cease to be imposed on the first day of the
119	month following certification of the election results by the
120	election commissioners of the county to the board of supervisors.
121	The board of supervisors shall notify the Department of Revenue of

122	the date of the discontinuance of the tax and shall publish
423	sufficient notice thereof in a newspaper published or having a
424	general circulation in the county. If no protest is filed, then
425	the board of supervisors shall state that fact in their minutes
426	and may continue the levy and assessment of the tax.
427	(2) This section shall not apply if the revenue from the tax
428	authorized by this act has been contractually pledged for the
429	payment of debt incurred prior to the effective date of House Bill
430	No. 1757, 2022 Regular Session, until such time as the debt is
431	satisfied. Once the debt has been satisfied, the board of
432	supervisors, shall within sixty (60) days, adopt a resolution
433	declaring the intention of the board of supervisors to continue
434	the tax which shall initiate the procedure described in paragraph
435	(a) of this section.
436	Section 9. The provisions of Sections 1 through 8 of this
437	act shall be repealed from and after July 1, 2026.
438	SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
439	and after its passage.