

By: Representative Ford (73rd)

To: Local and Private
Legislation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1994

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES OF THE CITY OF
2 RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI, TO LEVY AN ADDITIONAL TOURISM TAX OF TWO
3 PERCENT UPON THE GROSS SALES OF HOTELS AND MOTELS DERIVED FROM
4 ROOM RENTALS FOR THE PURPOSES OF TOURISM AND PARKS AND RECREATION;
5 TO REQUIRE AN ELECTION BE HELD ON WHETHER THE TAX MAY BE LEVIED;
6 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 **SECTION 1.** As used in this act, the following terms shall
9 have the following meanings unless a different meaning is clearly
10 indicated by the context in which they are used:

11 (a) "City" means the City of Ridgeland, Mississippi.

12 (b) "Governing authorities" means the Mayor and the
13 Board of Aldermen of the City of Ridgeland, Mississippi.

14 (c) "Hotel" or "motel" means and includes a place of
15 lodging that at any one (1) time will accommodate transient guests
16 on a daily or weekly basis and that is known to the trade as such.
17 Such terms shall not include a place of lodging with ten (10) or
18 less rental units.

19 **SECTION 2.** (1) For the purpose of providing funds to
20 promote, advertise and improve the attributes of the city as they



21 relate to tourism, parks and recreation, the governing authorities
22 are authorized, in their discretion, to levy, assess and collect
23 from every person or entity operating a hotel or motel, in
24 addition to all other taxes currently being levied, assessed and
25 collected, a tax not to exceed two percent (2%) of the gross
26 proceeds of sales of room rentals for each such hotel or motel.

27 (2) Persons or entities liable for the levy imposed under
28 subsection (1) of this section shall add the amount of the tax to
29 the sales price and shall collect the amount of the tax due from
30 the person receiving the services at the time of payment.

31 **SECTION 3.** (1) Before any tax authorized under this act may
32 be imposed, the governing authorities shall adopt a resolution
33 declaring their intention to levy the tax, setting forth the
34 amount of the tax to be imposed, the date upon which the tax shall
35 become effective, and calling for an election to be held on the
36 question. The date of the election shall be fixed in the
37 resolution. Notice of such intention shall be published once each
38 week for at least three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper
39 published or having a general circulation in the city, with the
40 first publication of the notice to be made not less than
41 twenty-one (21) days before the date fixed in the resolution for
42 the election and the last publication to be made not more than
43 seven (7) days before the election. At the election, all
44 qualified electors of the city may vote, and the ballots used in
45 the election shall have printed thereon a brief statement of the



46 amount and purposes of the proposed tax levy and the words "FOR
47 THE TAX" and, on a separate line, "AGAINST THE TAX," and the
48 voters shall vote by placing a cross (X) or check (✓) opposite
49 their choice on the proposition. When the results of the election
50 shall have been canvassed and certified, the city may levy the tax
51 if sixty percent (60%) of the qualified electors who vote in the
52 election vote in favor of the tax.

53 (2) At least thirty (30) days before the effective date of
54 the tax provided in this section, the governing authorities shall
55 furnish to the Department of Revenue a certified copy of the
56 resolution evidencing the tax.

57 **SECTION 4.** (1) The tax shall be collected by and paid to
58 the Department of Revenue on a form prescribed by the Department
59 of Revenue in the manner that state sales taxes are computed,
60 collected and paid; and full enforcement provisions and all other
61 provisions of Title 27, Chapter 65, Mississippi Code of 1972,
62 shall apply as necessary to the implementation and administration
63 of this act.

64 (2) The proceeds of the tax, less three percent (3%) thereof
65 which shall be retained by the Department of Revenue to defray the
66 cost of collection, shall be paid to the governing authorities on
67 or before the fifteenth day of the month following the month in
68 which collected.

69 (3) The proceeds of the tax shall not be considered by the
70 city as general fund revenues but shall be dedicated to and



71 expended solely for the purposes specified in Section 2 of this
72 act.

73 **SECTION 4.** Accounting for receipts and expenditures of the
74 funds herein described shall be made separately from the
75 accounting of receipts and expenditures of the general fund and
76 any other funds of the city. The records reflecting the receipts
77 and expenditures of the funds prescribed in this act shall be
78 audited annually by an independent certified public accountant,
79 and the accountant shall make a written report of his audit to the
80 governing authorities. The audit shall be made and completed as
81 soon as practicable after the close of the fiscal year, and
82 expenses of the audit shall be paid from the funds derived in
83 accordance with this act.

84 **SECTION 5.** This act shall not alter or amend Chapter 910,
85 Local and Private Laws of 1997, which act, including the one
86 percent (1%) tourist and convention tax authorized therein, shall
87 remain unchanged, without amendment, and in full force and effect.

88 **SECTION 6.** This act shall be repealed from and after July 1,
89 2028.

90 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
91 and after its passage.

