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H.738

Introduced by Representatives Yacovone of Morristown, Austin of Colchester,  
Cordes of Lincoln, Lanpher of Vergennes, Nicoll of Ludlow,  
Patt of Worcester, Sullivan of Burlington, Townsend of South  
Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City, and Wood  
of Waterbury

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Taxation; meals and rooms; occupancy fee

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to impose an  
additional \$2.00 per night fee on each taxable occupancy in the State and  
allocate the receipts to support tourism marketing and affordable housing.

An act relating to imposing an occupancy fee to fund tourism marketing and  
affordable housing

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 32 V.S.A. § 9241 is amended to read:

§ 9241. IMPOSITION OF TAX

(a) An operator shall collect a tax of nine percent of the rent of each  
occupancy plus a \$2.00 charge for each night of the occupancy.

\* \* \*



1 Sec. 5. 32 V.S.A. § 9249 is added to read:

2 § 9249. ALLOCATION TO SUPPORT TOURISM AND AFFORDABLE  
3 HOUSING

4 The revenue raised from the occupancy fee charged under 32 V.S.A.  
5 § 9241(a) shall be allocated in equal shares to the Travel Promotion Matching  
6 Fund Program established under 10 V.S.A. chapter 27, subchapter 2, and to the  
7 Workforce and Supportive Housing Fund established under 10 V.S.A. chapter  
8 22B.

9 Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. chapter 22B is added to read:

10 CHAPTER 22B. WORKFORCE AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

11 § 547. WORKFORCE AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FUND

12 (a) The Workforce and Supportive Housing Fund is established, to be  
13 managed in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5 and  
14 administered by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

15 (b) The Board shall use the Fund for the following purposes:

16 (1) to create and preserve permanently affordable housing, including  
17 workforce housing and supportive housing for the homeless, seniors, victims  
18 of domestic or sexual violence, and other vulnerable populations;

19 (2) to fund infrastructure in support of affordable and workforce  
20 housing;

1           (3) to provide rental assistance and other forms of housing-related  
2           financial assistance for the homeless, seniors, victims of domestic or sexual  
3           violence, and other vulnerable populations; and

4           (4) to provide housing-related supportive services for the homeless,  
5           seniors, victims of domestic or sexual violence, and other vulnerable  
6           populations.

7           (c) The Fund shall comprise the following:

8           (1) one half of the revenue from the occupancy fee charged under  
9           32 V.S.A. § 9241(a);

10           (2) any State or federal funds as may be appropriated by the General  
11           Assembly; and

12           (3) any gifts, grants, or other contributions to the Fund.

13           (d) The monies deposited in the Fund during the prior fiscal quarter shall  
14           be allocated as follows:

15           (1) two thirds to the Office of Economic Opportunity of the Department  
16           for Children and Families to be used in equal shares for the following  
17           programs:

18           (A) the Family Supportive Housing Program; and

19           (B) the Housing Opportunity Grant Program; and

20           (2) one third to the Pathways Vermont Housing First Program.

1      Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

2           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.