

House Bill 735

By: Representative Gunter of the 8<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To authorize the governing authority of the City of Hiawassee to levy an excise tax pursuant  
2 to subsection (b) of Code Section 48-13-51 of the O.C.G.A.; to provide procedures,  
3 conditions, and limitations; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
4 other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Pursuant to the authority of subsection (b) of Code Section 48-13-51 of the O.C.G.A., the  
8 governing authority of the City of Hiawassee is authorized to levy an excise tax at a rate not  
9 to exceed 8 percent of the charge for the furnishing for value to the public of any room or  
10 rooms, lodgings, or accommodations furnished by any person or legal entity licensed by, or  
11 required to pay business or occupation taxes to, the municipality for operating a hotel, motel,  
12 inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms,  
13 lodgings, or accommodations are regularly or periodically furnished for value.

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 The enactment of this Act is subsequent to the adoption of Resolution No. 2022-09-01 by the  
16 governing authority of the City of Hiawassee on October 5, 2022, which specifies the  
17 subsequent tax rate, identifies the projects or tourism product development purposes, and  
18 specifies the allocation of proceeds.

19 **SECTION 3.**

20 In accordance with the terms of such resolution adopted by the mayor and council of the City  
21 of Hiawassee:

22 (1) In each fiscal year during which a tax is collected pursuant to paragraph (2) of  
23 subsection (b) of Code Section 48-13-51 of the O.C.G.A., an amount equal to not less  
24 than 50 percent of the total amount of taxes collected that exceeds the amount of taxes  
25 that would be collected at the rate of 5 percent shall be expended for promoting tourism,  
26 conventions, and trade shows by the destination marketing organization designated by the  
27 City of Hiawassee or by such other entity already authorized to administer tourism funds  
28 pursuant to existing contract as specified in paragraph (2) of subsection (e) of Code  
29 Section 48-13-51 of the O.C.G.A.; and

30 (2) The remaining amount of taxes collected that exceeds the amount of taxes that would  
31 be collected at the rate of 5 percent which is not otherwise expended under paragraph (1)  
32 of this section shall be expended for tourism product development.

33 **SECTION 4.**

34 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.