

House Bill 783

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th and Mallow of the 163rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To authorize the governing authority of the City of Savannah 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 provide for an effective date;
4 to repeal conflicting laws; and for 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 Savannah 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.

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14 **SECTION 2.**

15 The enactment of this Act is subsequent to the adoption of a resolution by the governing
16 authority of the City of Savannah on February 25, 2021, which specifies the subsequent tax
17 rate, identifies the projects or tourism product development purposes, and specifies the
18 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 Savannah:

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 Savannah 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 This Act shall become effective on April 1, 2022.

35 **SECTION 5.**

36 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.