

1-1 By: Oliveira (Senate Sponsor - Lucio) H.B. No. 1717
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 27, 2015;
 1-3 April 28, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Natural Resources and Economic Development; May 20, 2015, reported
 1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0; May 20, 2015,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			

1-20 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-21 AN ACT

1-22 relating to the use of municipal hotel occupancy taxes by certain
 1-23 municipalities for ecological and space exploration-related
 1-24 tourism.

1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-26 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 351, Tax Code, is amended
 1-27 by adding Section 351.1054 to read as follows:

1-28 Sec. 351.1054. ALLOCATION OF REVENUE FOR ECOLOGICAL TOURISM
 1-29 AND SPACECRAFT AND SPACEPORT ACTIVITIES BY CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES.

1-30 (a) In this section, "spacecraft" and "spaceport" have the
 1-31 meanings assigned by Section 507.001, Local Government Code.

1-32 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, an
 1-33 eligible barrier island coastal municipality may use revenue from
 1-34 the municipal hotel occupancy tax for:

1-35 (1) promotional and event expenses for an ecological
 1-36 tourism event, including an event for which the primary attraction
 1-37 is traveling to an area of natural or ecological interest for the
 1-38 purpose of observing and learning about wildlife and the area's
 1-39 natural environment, if:

1-40 (A) a majority of the event's participants are
 1-41 tourists; and

1-42 (B) the event substantially increases economic
 1-43 activity at hotels and motels within or in the vicinity of the
 1-44 municipality; and

1-45 (2) expenses directly related to:

1-46 (A) the acquisition of sites to observe
 1-47 spacecraft and spaceport activities; and

1-48 (B) the construction, improvement, enlarging,
 1-49 equipping, repairing, operation, and maintenance of facilities
 1-50 utilized by hotel guests to observe and learn about spacecraft and
 1-51 spaceport operations.

1-52 (c) A municipality may use for the purposes provided by
 1-53 Subsections (b)(1) and (2) not more than the greater of:

1-54 (1) 15 percent of the hotel occupancy tax revenue
 1-55 collected by the municipality; or

1-56 (2) the amount of tax received by the municipality at
 1-57 the rate of one percent of the cost of a room.

1-58 SECTION 2. Section 351.1055(d), Tax Code, is amended to
 1-59 read as follows:

1-60 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter and
 1-61 except as provided by Subsection (e), an eligible barrier island

2-1 coastal municipality shall use at least the amount of revenue
2-2 derived from the application of the tax at a rate of seven percent
2-3 of the cost of a room for the purposes authorized under Sections
2-4 351.101(a)(1) and (3) and Sections 351.1054(b)(1) and (2). If an
2-5 eligible barrier island coastal municipality uses hotel occupancy
2-6 tax revenue for a purpose described by Section 351.1054(b)(2), the
2-7 municipality may not reduce the amount of revenue that is used for
2-8 purposes described by Section 351.101(a)(3) to an amount that is
2-9 less than the average amount of revenue used by the municipality for
2-10 purposes described by Section 351.101(a)(3) during the 36-month
2-11 period that precedes the municipality's first use of revenue for a
2-12 purpose described by Section 351.1054(b)(2).

2-13 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-17 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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