

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**

House Bill No. 934 by Representative Ligi

TAX/LEASE: Authorizes the parishes of Jefferson and Orleans to each create an automobile rental tax district

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Changes the maximum rate of the automobile rental tax authorized to be levied in the parishes of Jefferson and Orleans from ½ of 1% to 3%.
2. Clarifies that the avails from the total taxes collected in Jefferson Parish shall be distributed as provided in proposed law.
3. Changes the distribution percentage of tax avails granted to the Jefferson Performing Arts Society and the Westwego Performing Arts Center. Adds provisions that provide for the distribution of tax avails to the Gretna Cultural Center for the Arts and for the operation, administration, and maintenance of cultural facilities in unincorporated areas of Jefferson Parish.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

Present law (R.S. 47:551) levies, for the period from August 1, 1990, through June 30, 2012, a state tax of 2 ½% and a local tax of ½ of 1% of the gross proceeds derived from the lease or rental of an automobile pursuant to an automobile rental contract, less any sales and use tax included in such contract.

Present law excludes the following transactions from any tax that may be imposed:

- (1) Automobiles rented by an insurance company as a replacement vehicle for a policyholder.
- (2) Automobiles rented by an automobile dealer as a replacement vehicle while a customer's vehicle is being repaired.
- (3) An automobile rental by an individual or business who rents a vehicle as a replacement vehicle while his vehicle is being repaired if the individual presents to the renter upon return of the rented vehicle a copy of the repair or service invoice.

Present law defines "automobile rental contract" to mean an agreement for the rental of an automobile without a driver, designated to carry less than nine passengers, for a rental period of not more than 29 calendar days. Provides that rental agreements in excess of 29 days shall not be subject to the tax, unless the actual period of the rental agreement is less than 29 days as a result of the exercise of a cancellation clause.

Present law provides that tax is payable to the secretary of the Dept. of Revenue. Requires that the tax be collected and enforced pursuant to the provisions of present law (Chapter 2 of Subtitle II of Title 47 of the La. Revised Statutes of 1950) insofar as the provisions are not in conflict with present law (R.S. 47:551).

Present law requires that the local tax be remitted to the secretary of the Dept. of Revenue who collects the tax as an agent of local government. Authorizes the secretary to assess a collection fee, not to exceed ½ of 1% of the proceeds of the tax, as reimbursement for the actual cost of collection.

Present law requires the secretary to distribute monthly the proceeds of the tax to the central local sales and use tax collector or, if none, the parish governing authority. Requires the central local sales and use tax collector or governing authority to distribute at no charge the tax proceeds received from the secretary to each political subdivision in the parish which levies a sales and use tax. Provides that the distribution shall be in accordance with each political subdivision's pro rata share of local sales and use tax receipts collected to the total of all such taxes collected within the parish.

Present law provides that the local tax collected in Jefferson Parish shall be distributed as follows:

- (1) 1/3 to the city of Kenner for arts and recreation.
- (2) 2/3 to the Jefferson Performing Arts Society for programs on the east and west bank and one-third of that amount shall be distributed to the Westwego Performing Arts Center.

Present law provides that the local tax collected in Orleans Parish shall be distributed for road repairs and beautification projects.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally authorizes the governing authorities of the parishes of Jefferson and Orleans to each create, by ordinance, an automobile rental tax district as a political subdivision of the state. Provides that the boundaries of the district shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the parish creating the district. Provides that the parish governing authority creating the district shall be the governing authority of the district.

Proposed law authorizes the district, subject to voter approval, to levy an automobile rental tax, not to exceed 3% of the gross proceeds derived from the lease or rental of an automobile pursuant to an automobile rental contract, less any sales and use tax included in such contract. Requires that the election on the question of the levy of the tax be held at the same time as a regularly scheduled election in the parish creating the district.

Proposed law excludes the same transactions as present law (R.S. 47:551) from any tax that may be imposed. Defines "automobile rental contract" to mean the same as defined in present law (R.S. 47:551). Provides that rental agreements in excess of 29 days shall not be subject to the tax, unless the actual period of the rental agreement is less than 29 days as a result of the exercise of a cancellation clause.

Proposed law requires that the avails of the total taxes collected in Jefferson Parish be distributed as follows:

- (1) 1/3 to the city of Kenner for arts and recreation.
- (2) 2/3 to be distributed as follows:
  - (a) 1/3 to the Westwego Performing Arts Center.
  - (b) 1/4 to the Jefferson Performing Arts Society for programs on the east and west bank.
  - (c) 1/6 to the Gretna Cultural Center for the Arts.
  - (d) All remaining monies shall be deposited into a dedicated funding account to be used exclusively for the operation, administration, and maintenance of cultural facilities in unincorporated areas of Jefferson Parish.

Requires that the avails of the tax collected in Orleans be used in the same manner as provided in present law (R.S. 47:551)

Proposed law requires the parish governing authority creating the district to prescribe in the ordinance creating the district any other purposes of the district.

Effective July 1, 2012.

(Adds R.S. 47:551.1)