

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 429

By Senators Smith and Taylor

[Introduced January 23, 2023; referred
to the Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §7-1-3uu, relating to requiring county commissions to impose a Health and
 3 Safety Fee of \$1.00 per day or activity per person for tourism and recreational activities;
 4 listing applicable activities; and defining collection by the county and state, providing
 5 distribution timelines to the counties, and requirements for use of the funds disbursed.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. COUNTY COMMISSIONS GENERALLY.

§7-1-3uu. Health and Safety Fee.

1 (a) Every county commission shall collect a \$1.00 Health and Safety Fee per person per
 2 activity/day for the following tourism and recreation activities:

3 (1) Hotel/Motel/Cabin/Condominium/Airbnb/VRBO rentals;

4 (2) RV or tent camping fees;

5 (3) Car rental;

6 (4) Boat rental;

7 (5) Boat rides;

8 (6) ATV/motorcycle/bicycle rental;

9 (7) Bus excursions/charter (this shall be per person per day);

10 (8) Ski lift usage;

11 (9) Whitewater rafting;

12 (10) Guided fishing or hunting excursions;

13 (11) Zip line, rock climbing, paddle boarding, and similar outdoor adventure activities;

14 (12) Carnival, fair, or amusement park visits;

15 (13) Train rides;

16 (14) Museum or historical home tours;

17 (15) Concerts or music festivals;

18 (b) The County Commissions for each county shall provide these funds to the state for

- 19 accounting quarterly;
- 20 (c) The State shall return the funds collected by each county semi-annually;
- 21 (d) The monies returned to the county semi-annually must be earmarked specifically for
- 22 use in emergency services readiness, and to be divided equally among EMS and fire departments.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create a statewide Health and Safety Fee that would allow visitors to help contribute to the readiness cost of emergency services through a \$1.00 per day/activity fee that would be distributed to the counties twice per year.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.