

ORDINANCE NO. 25-17

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF STANTON, TENNESSEE, TO ESTABLISH A 4% HOTEL AND SHORT-TERM RENTAL OCCUPANCY TAX AT FOUR PERCENT

WHEREAS, the Town of Stanton, Tennessee, pursuant to Tennessee law, is authorized to levy a privilege tax upon the occupancy in hotels and short-term rentals within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen finds that such tax is necessary and appropriate to offset costs associated with tourism, provide for visitor amenities, and fund tourism-related facilities and services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Stanton, Tennessee, as follows:

SECTION 1. Tax Imposed.

There is levied a privilege tax upon the occupancy in any hotel or short-term rental by transients, at a rate of four percent (4%) of the consideration charged by the operator, applied to the first thirty (30) consecutive days of any occupancy.

SECTION 2. Definitions.

For purposes of this ordinance:

Hotel shall include hotels, motels, inns, bed-and-breakfast establishments, tourist courts, lodges, and similar facilities.

Short-Term Rental (STR) means a dwelling unit or portion thereof rented for less than thirty (30) consecutive days.

Transient means any person who exercises occupancy for less than thirty (30) consecutive days.

Operator means the person or entity operating the hotel or STR.

Marketplace means any online or similar platform that facilitates STR transactions and is required by Tennessee law to collect and remit occupancy taxes.

SECTION 3. Collection and Remittance:

A. Operators shall collect the tax at the time consideration is paid and state the tax separately on invoices or receipts.

- B. For transactions processed through a registered STR Marketplace (e.g., Airbnb, VRBO), the marketplace shall collect and remit the tax directly to the Tennessee Department of Revenue, as required by state law.
- C. For hotel transactions and STRs not facilitated through a marketplace, the operator shall remit the tax monthly to the Town Recorder on or before the twentieth (20th) day of the month following the month of collection, accompanied by a return on forms prescribed by the Town.
- D. Operators shall maintain records of all rents, exemptions, and taxes collected for not less than three (3) years.

SECTION 4. Penalties, Interest, and Enforcement.

Delinquent taxes shall bear interest and penalties as provided under Tennessee law for local occupancy taxes. The Town Recorder is authorized to audit records, assess unpaid taxes, and enforce collection.

SECTION 5. Exemptions.

Occupancy beyond the first thirty (30) consecutive days of a continuous stay by the same occupant in the same accommodation shall be exempt, along with any other exemptions required by state or federal law.

SECTION 6. Use of Revenues.

All revenues from this tax shall be deposited into a dedicated Tourism and Visitor Development Fund of the Town of Stanton and used exclusively for tourism promotion, development, and tourism-related facilities and services.

SECTION 7. Severability.

If any provision of this ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions that can be given effect without the invalid provision.

SECTION 9. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect from and after its final passage, the public welfare requiring it.

First Reading: September 16, 2025

Public Hearing: _____

Second Reading: _____

NORMAN BAUER, JR., Mayor

ATTEST:

TWILLA MOSS, Town Recorder