

Senate Bill 299

By: Senator Mallow of the 2nd

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To authorize the governing authority of the City of Port Wentworth to levy an excise tax
2 pursuant 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 repeal conflicting laws; and for
4 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 Port Wentworth is authorized to levy an excise tax at a rate
9 not to exceed 8 percent of the charge for the furnishing for value to the public of any room
10 or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations furnished by any person or legal entity licensed by,
11 or required to pay business or occupation taxes to, the municipality for operating a hotel,
12 motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which
13 rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly or periodically furnished for value.

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 The enactment of this Act is subsequent to the adoption of Resolution No. R23-01-XX by
16 the governing authority of the City of Port Wentworth on January 26, 2023, which specifies
17 the subsequent tax rate, identifies the projects or tourism product development purposes, and
18 specifies the 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 Port Wentworth:

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 Port Wentworth or by such other entity already authorized to administer tourism
28 funds 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 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.