



Ohio Revised Code

Section 715.014 Tourism development districts.

Effective: October 29, 2018

Legislation: Senate Bill 239 - 132nd General Assembly

(A) As used in this section:

(1) "Tourism development district" means a district designated by a municipal corporation under this section.

(2) "Territory of a tourism development district" means all of the area included within the territorial boundaries of a tourism development district.

(3) "Business" and "owner" have the same meanings as in section 503.56 of the Revised Code.

(4) "Eligible municipal corporation" means a municipal corporation wholly or partly located in a county having a population greater than three hundred seventy-five thousand but less than four hundred thousand that levies taxes under section 5739.021 or 5739.026 of the Revised Code, the aggregate rate of which does not exceed one-half of one per cent on September 29, 2015.

(5) "Fiscal officer" means the city auditor, village clerk, or other municipal officer having the duties and functions of a city auditor or village clerk.

(B)(1) The legislative authority of an eligible municipal corporation, by resolution or ordinance, may declare an area of the municipal corporation to be a tourism development district for the purpose of fostering and developing tourism in the district if all of the following criteria are met:

(a) The district's area does not exceed six hundred acres.

(b) All territory in the district is contiguous.

(c) Before adopting the resolution or ordinance, the legislative authority holds at least two public hearings concerning the creation of the tourism development district.



(d) Before adopting the resolution or ordinance, the legislative authority receives a petition signed by every record owner of a parcel of real property located in the proposed district and the owner of every business that operates in the proposed district.

(e) The legislative authority adopts the resolution or ordinance on or before December 31, 2020.

A legislative authority may declare more than one area of the municipal corporation to be a tourism development district under this section.

(2) The petition described in division (B)(1)(d) of this section shall include an explanation of the taxes and charges that may be levied or imposed in the proposed district.

(3) The legislative authority shall certify the resolution or ordinance to the tax commissioner within five days after its adoption, along with a description of the boundaries of the district authorized in the resolution. That description shall include sufficient information for the commissioner to determine if the address of a vendor is within the boundaries of the district.

(4) Subject to the limitations of divisions (B)(1)(a) and (b) of this section, the legislative authority of an eligible municipal corporation may enlarge the territory of an existing tourism development district in the manner prescribed for the creation of a district under divisions (B)(1) to (3) of this section, except that the petition described in division (B)(1)(d) of this section must be signed by every record owner of a parcel of real property located in the area proposed to be added to the district and the owner of every business that operates in the area proposed to be added to the district.

(C) For the purpose of fostering and developing tourism in a tourism development district, a lessor leasing real property in a tourism development district may impose and collect a uniform fee on each parcel of real property leased by the lessor, to be paid by each of the person's lessees. A lessee is subject to such a fee only if the lease separately states the amount of the fee. Before a lessor may impose and collect such a fee, the lessor shall file a copy of such lease with the fiscal officer. A lessor that imposes such a fee shall remit all collections of the fee to the municipal corporation in which the real property is located.



The legislative authority of that municipal corporation shall establish all regulations necessary to provide for the administration and remittance of such fees. The regulations may prescribe the time for payment of the fee, and may provide for the imposition of a penalty or interest, or both, for late remittances, provided that the penalty does not exceed ten per cent of the amount of fee due, and the rate at which interest accrues does not exceed the rate per annum prescribed pursuant to section 5703.47 of the Revised Code. The regulations shall provide, after deducting the real and actual costs of administering the fee, that the revenue be used exclusively for fostering and developing tourism within the tourism development district.

(D) The legislative authority of an eligible municipal corporation that has designated a tourism development district may levy the tax authorized under section 5739.101 of the Revised Code. Nothing in this section limits the power of the legislative authority of a municipal corporation to levy a tax on the basis of admissions in a tourism development district pursuant to its powers of local self-government conferred by Section 3 of Article XVIII, Ohio Constitution.

(E) On or before the first day of each January and July, beginning after the designation of a tourism development district, the fiscal officer shall certify a list of vendors located within the tourism development district to the tax commissioner, which shall include the name, address, and vendor's license number for each vendor.