

ARTICLE 20E
COUNTY LOCAL OPTION GROSS RECEIPTS TAXES

Editor's note: The entire section of Article 20E should be reviewed. These sections are listed to answer common questions.

7-20E-15. County fire protection excise tax; authority to impose; ordinance requirements.

A. The majority of the members of the governing body may enact an ordinance imposing an excise tax on any person engaging in business in the county area for the privilege of engaging in business. The rate of the tax shall be one-fourth of one percent or one-eighth of one percent of the gross receipts of the person engaging in business. The tax provided in this section shall be imposed for a period of not more than ten years from the effective date of the ordinance imposing the tax. Having once enacted an ordinance under this section, the governing body may enact subsequent ordinances for succeeding periods of not more than five years, provided each such ordinance meets the requirements of the County Local Option Gross Receipts Taxes Act [this article] with respect to the tax imposed by this section.

B. This tax is to be referred to as the "county fire protection excise tax".

C. The governing body of a county shall, at the time of enacting an ordinance imposing the rate of the tax authorized in Subsection A of this section, dedicate the revenue for the purpose of financing the operational expenses, ambulance services or capital outlay costs of independent fire districts or ambulance services provided by the county. In any election held, the ballot shall clearly state the purpose to which the revenue will be dedicated and shall be used by the county for that purpose.

D. Any ordinance enacted under the provisions of Subsection A of this section shall include an effective date of either July 1 or January 1 in accordance with the provisions of the County Local Option Gross Receipts Taxes Act.

E. The ordinance shall not go into effect until after an election is held and a simple majority of the qualified electors of the county area voting in the election votes in favor of imposing the county fire protection excise tax. The governing body shall adopt a resolution calling for an election within seventy-five days of the date the ordinance is adopted on the question of imposing the tax. Such question may be submitted to the qualified electors and voted upon as a separate question at any special election called for that purpose by the governing body. The election upon the question shall be called, held, conducted and canvassed in substantially the same manner as provided by law for general elections. If the question of imposing a county fire protection excise tax fails, the governing body shall not again propose a county fire protection excise tax for a period of one year after the election.

History: Laws 1979, ch. 398, § 3; 1983, ch. 222, § 2; 1993, ch. 302, § 1; 1978 Comp., § 7-20A-3, amended and recompiled as 1978 Comp., § 7-20E-15 by Laws 1993, ch. 354, § 15; 1994, ch. 101, § 9.

7-20E-16. County fire protection excise tax; use of proceeds; budget limitation.

A. The money provided through passage of the county fire protection excise tax shall be disbursed and allotted through the governing body to the county fire districts within the county;

provided that no part of any distribution shall be used to pay any salary, compensation or remuneration to any employee of the state, the county or the independent fire district.

B. The governing body of any county adopting a county fire protection excise tax shall not reduce the level of funding of any independent fire district more than ten percent from the approved budget of such fire district for the prior year. The department of finance and administration shall not approve the budget of any county which violates the provisions of this subsection.

History: Laws 1979, ch. 398, § 8; 1983, ch. 222, § 3; 1978 Comp., § 7-20A-8, amended and recompiled as 1978 Comp., § 7-20E-16 by Laws 1993, ch. 354, § 16.