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H.217

Introduced by Representatives Donovan of Burlington, Bissonnette of  
Winooski, Briglin of Thetford, Buckholz of Hartford,  
Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christie of  
Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington, Dunn of  
Essex, Gonzalez of Winooski, Howard of Rutland City,  
Lanpher of Vergennes, Lucke of Hartford, Macaig of Williston,  
Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston, Miller of  
Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Ode of Burlington,  
O’Sullivan of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson  
of Burlington, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury,  
Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Till of Jericho,  
Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City, Wood of Waterbury,  
Yacovone of Morristown, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Taxation; rooms and meals; occupancy charge

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to impose an  
additional \$2.00 per night on each occupancy in the State and allocate the  
receipts to the Workforce and Supportive Housing Fund for affordable and  
workforce housing projects.

1 An act relating to an occupancy fee

2 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

3 Sec. 1. 32 V.S.A. § 9241 is amended to read:

4 § 9241. IMPOSITION OF TAX

5 (a) An operator shall collect a tax of nine percent of the rent of each  
6 occupancy plus a \$2.00 charge for each night of the occupancy.

7 \* \* \*

8 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. chapter 22B is added to read:

9 CHAPTER 22B. WORKFORCE AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

10 § 547. WORKFORCE AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FUND

11 (a) The Workforce and Supportive Housing Fund is established, to be  
12 managed in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5 and  
13 administered by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

14 (b) The Board shall use the Fund for the following purposes:

15 (1) to create and preserve permanently affordable housing, including  
16 workforce housing and supportive housing for the homeless, seniors, victims  
17 of domestic or sexual violence, and other vulnerable populations;

18 (2) to fund infrastructure in support of affordable and workforce  
19 housing;

1           (3) to provide rental assistance and other forms of housing-related  
2           financial assistance for the homeless, seniors, victims of domestic or sexual  
3           violence, and other vulnerable populations; and

4           (4) to provide housing-related supportive services for the homeless,  
5           seniors, victims of domestic or sexual violence, and other vulnerable  
6           populations.

7           (c) The Fund shall comprise the following:

8           (1) the receipts from the occupancy charge imposed by 32 V.S.A.  
9           § 9241;

10           (2) any State or federal funds as may be appropriated by the General  
11           Assembly; and

12           (3) any gifts, grants, or other contributions to the Fund.

13           (d) The monies deposited in the Fund during the prior fiscal quarter shall  
14           be allocated as follows:

15           (1) to the Agency of Human Services:

16           (A) 30 percent for rental and other forms of housing-related  
17           assistance, including assistances for rental arrearages, rapid re-housing, and  
18           homelessness prevention; and

19           (B) 10 percent for housing-related supportive services.

20           (2) to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board:

1           (A) 50 percent to support a revenue bond and other expenditures  
2           furthering the development of permanently affordable workforce and  
3           supportive housing for Vermonters with low income; and

4           (B) 10 percent for infrastructure in support of workforce housing  
5           pilot projects.

6           (3) Of the amounts appropriated in subdivisions (1)(A) and (1)(B) of  
7           this subsection, 25 percent or more of the funding shall be used to provide  
8           assistance to victims of domestic or sexual violence.

9           (e) The Commissioner of Finance and Management may draw warrants for  
10           disbursements from this Fund in anticipation of receipts.

11           (f) Any remaining balance at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried  
12           forward in the Fund.

13       Sec. 3. FISCAL YEAR 2018 OCCUPANCY CHARGE ALLOCATIONS

14           (a) In fiscal year 2018, of the amount of the occupancy charge imposed by  
15           32 V.S.A. § 9241 allocated to the Agency of Human Services from the  
16           Workforce and Supportive Housing Fund in 10 V.S.A. § 547(d)(1)(A), the  
17           funds shall be appropriated as follows:

18           (1) 30 percent to the Department for Children and Families for the  
19           Vermont Rental Subsidy Program;

20           (2) 25 percent to the Office of Economic Opportunity for the Housing  
21           and Opportunity Grant Program;

1           (3) 15 percent to the Department of Mental Health for the Homeless  
2           Housing Subsidy Plus Care Program; and

3           (4) 30 percent to the Vermont State Housing Authority for “project  
4           based” rental assistance for permanently affordable supportive housing funded  
5           by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

6           (b) In fiscal year 2018, of the amount of the occupancy charge imposed by  
7           32 V.S.A. § 9241 allocated to the Agency of Human Services from the  
8           Workforce and Supportive Housing Fund in 10 V.S.A. § 547(d)(1)(B), the  
9           funds shall be appropriated as follows:

10           (1) 20 percent to the Office of Economic Opportunity for the Family  
11           Supportive Housing Program;

12           (2) 30 percent to the Office of Economic Opportunity for the Housing  
13           and Opportunity Grant Program;

14           (3) 25 percent to the Secretary of the Agency of Human Services for  
15           direct service and service coordination grants; and

16           (4) 25 percent to the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent  
17           Living for the Assistive Community Care Services Program.

18           Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

19           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.