

BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT

ORDINANCE No. 98-01-ORD  
(Adopted as Amended on May 3, 2000)

AN ORDINANCE DESCRIBING THE RESORT TAX IN THE BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE BIG SKY RESORT AREA RESORT TAX; SPECIFYING THE COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF RESORT TAXES IN THE BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT; PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO REPORT AND REMIT RESORT TAXES DUE; AND FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION AND SPECIFICATION IN THE CATEGORIES OF GOODS AND SERVICES SUBJECT TO THE RESORT TAX; AND

PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN THE BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNDER §§ 7-6-1505, 7-6-1542 & 7-6-1547, MCA, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 98-01 AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Definitions: For purposes of this Ordinance, the following definitions apply and are the same definitions as set forth in section 7-6-1501, MCA:

- (a) "Administrative Officer" means the person hired by the district board to assist in the administration of the resort tax and who serves at the pleasure of the district board.
- (b) "District", "Resort Area District" or "Big Sky Resort Area District" means the district created under 7-6-1531-1550, MCA, that has been established as a resort area under 7-6-1508.
- (c) "District Board" means the board of directors of the Big Sky Resort Area District elected pursuant to Title 7, Chapter 6, Part 15, MCA."
- (d) "Luxuries" means any gift item, luxury item, or other item normally sold to the public or to transient visitors or tourists. The term does not include food purchased unprepared or unserved; medicine, medical supplies and services; appliances; hardware supplies and tools; or any necessities of life.
- (e) "Medical supplies" means items that are sold to be used for curative, prosthetic, or medical maintenance purposes, whether or not prescribed by a physician.
- (f) "Medicine" means substances sold for curative or remedial properties, including both physician prescribed and over-the-counter medications.

Section 2. Effective Date of the Resort Tax: The resort tax became effective on June 1, 1992.

Section 3. Duration of the Resort Tax: The duration of the resort tax is for twenty years commencing June 1, 1992 and terminating on June 1, 2012.

Section 4. Effective Date of the Big Sky Resort Area District: The Big Sky Resort Area District became effective on April 7, 1998.

Section 5. Rate of the Resort Tax: The rate of the resort tax is three percent (3%) of the retail value of all luxury goods or services.

Section 6. Imposition of Resort Tax in the Big Sky Resort Area District: Pursuant to the election held on April 13, 1992 in Gallatin County, and the election held on April 21, 1992 in Madison County, a resort tax was imposed on the retail value of all luxury goods and services sold within the Gallatin County and Madison County segments of the Big Sky Resort Area District in Montana.

Section 7. Collection of Resort Tax: Establishments that sell luxuries, goods or services within the resort area district must collect a resort tax on said luxuries, goods or services.

Section 8. Items Subject to Tax: The following items, goods, and services are subject to the resort tax:

- (a) Luxuries;
- (b) All goods and services sold within the resort area district by the following establishments:
  - (i) hotels, motels, and other lodging or camping facilities;
  - (ii) restaurants, fast food stores, and other food service establishments;
  - (iii) taverns, bars, night clubs, lounges, and other public establishments that serve beer, wine, liquor, or other alcoholic beverages by the drink; and
  - (iv) destination ski resorts and other destination recreational facilities.

Section 9. Luxuries subject to tax. In accordance with section 7-6-1505, MCA, "luxuries" is further classified and specified to mean:

- (a) clothing items;
- (b) fishing tackle and sporting goods;
- (c) rentals and sales of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles motorcycles, bicycles, skis, ski lessons, ski lift tickets, snowboards, boats, campers, boat motors and all recreational equipment;
- (d) automobile rentals unless exempt under section 10(z);
- (e) all recreational activities and services on land, water, or in air, including but not limited to fishing trips, hunting trips, and other outfitter trips, scenic rides, balloon and other air flights, horseback riding, golfing, tennis, skiing, and guided tours if purchased, reserved or committed within the boundaries of the District;
- (f) all souvenirs, curios, jewelry, gift and art items, and food gift items prepared and sold as a package or unit

(g) all entertainment and beverages, including but not limited to beer, wine, liquor, or other alcoholic beverages sold by the drink; music and concerts, gaming, movie and VCR rentals, theaters, movies, and plays;

(h) massages unless exempt under section (10)(y);

(i) all rental agreements for lodging facilities, unless exempt under section (10)(o); and

(j) items not exempt under section 10.

Section 10. Tax Exempt Goods and Services: The following items are not subject to the tax:

(a) food purchased unprepared or unserved;

(b) utilities and utility services;

(c) medical supplies and services and medicine;

(d) wholesale merchandise for resale at retail or used in the purchaser's business as supplies;

(e) gasoline and other motor vehicle fuel;

(f) liquor sold at agency liquor stores, or by the bottle;

(g) propane and other home fuels;

(h) automobiles and trucks;

(i) labor and parts for automobile and truck repair;

(j) all non-recreational labor, services, and nonrecreational state licensed professions and trades;

(k) all business payroll and labor costs;

(l) lumber, hardware supplies, tools, and other construction related supplies;

(m) household appliances;

(n) real estate sales;

(o) all rental agreements when contracted for a period longer than thirty (30) consecutive days;

(p) catalog sales except to the extent that the luxury item is paid for and the exchange made within the boundaries of the Big Sky Resort Area District;

(q) newspapers;

(r) non-profit fund raising activities ;

(s) garage sales;

(t) services provided by non-profit religious organizations;

(u) toilet paper, personal hygiene products, and diapers;

- (v) industrial, commercial and household strength cleaning materials, including soaps, laundry and dishwashing detergents and disinfectants;
- (w) postage stamps and postal services;
- (x) massages prescribed by a physician;
- (y) automobile rentals used during emergency repair; and
- (z) all rental agreements for lodging facilities when contracted for a period longer than thirty (30) consecutive days; or the lessor is not in the primary business of renting lodging facilities.

Section 11. Time of Remittance of Resort Tax: The resort taxes collected must be remitted to the District or postmarked on or before the last day of each month for the prior month, or, if the last day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Holiday, then on the next business day, to the following address: Big Sky Resort Area District, designated P.O. Box, Big Sky, Montana 59716. All tax payments made after the last day of a month, for the prior month, shall be deemed delinquent and subject to the penalties, interest and late fees described in section 14.

Section 12. Remittance of Resort Tax to District Board: The District Board, or the Administrative Officer if so authorized by the District Board, is responsible for receiving and accounting for the resort tax receipts.

Section 13. Enforcement of Collection of Resort Tax: The District Board shall enforce the collection of resort taxes and oversee the methods and procedures to be used in enforcing the collection of the resort tax within the Big Sky Resort Area District.

Section 14. Penalties, Interest, Late Fees and Liens:

(a) The following penalties, referrals, or liens may be imposed as authorized by section 7-6-1505, MCA, for failure to report resort taxes due, failure to remit resort taxes due, and violations of this ordinance:

(i) a criminal penalty, not to exceed a fine of \$1,000.00, or six months imprisonment, or both;

(ii) a civil penalty if the resort area district prevails in a suit for the collection of resort taxes, not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of the resort taxes found due, plus the costs and attorney fees incurred by the district in the enforcement action;

(iii) upon referral to the County Commissioners of Gallatin or Madison Counties, revocation of the county license held by the offender, if applicable;

(iv) upon proper legal procedure secure and file a lien against the property of the establishment failing to report, collect or remit resort taxes.

(b) (i) Delinquent taxes shall bear interest at the rate of one percent (1%) per calendar month, for the delinquent month, to be compounded monthly. The assessed interest of one percent (1%) per month, shall apply after the last day of the month in which the payment is due, and to each subsequent month, regardless of when the payment is made; and

(ii) Each delinquent tax payment shall be assessed a late fee of \$30 per month for each month of delinquency.

Section 15. Administration Fee for Each Vendor and Commercial Establishment: Pursuant to section 7-6-1505, MCA, each establishment collecting resort taxes is entitled to withhold the authorized maximum of five percent (5%) of the resort taxes to defray the establishment's costs for the administration of the tax collection. The administration fee may be withheld by the establishment at time of remitting the resort taxes to the resort area district.

Section 16. Reporting Forms for Resort Tax - Confidentiality:

(1) The District Board shall provide each establishment in the Big Sky Resort Area District responsible for collecting the resort tax with the proper forms for reporting and accounting for the resort taxes collected.

(2) The records and forms submitted to the District Board by the establishments shall be confidential and not open to public inspection unless so ordered by the District Board pursuant to Article II, Sections 9 and 10, of the Constitution of the State of Montana, a court of competent jurisdiction, or upon the filing of an action in District Court.

Section 17. Audits: Periodic audits shall be conducted under the direction of the District Board. All establishments must cooperate in the conduct of said audits. Failure to cooperate with an audit shall constitute a violation of this ordinance.

Section 18. Maintenance of Records by Establishments: Each establishment required to collect and remit resort taxes to the District Board shall keep and maintain, for a period of not less than five (5) years, all records necessary to determine the verity of the taxes collected and remitted and shall make such records available for audit and inspection at all reasonable times.

Section 19. Appropriation, Expenditure, and Purpose of Resort Tax: The revenue derived from the imposition of the resort tax will be appropriated by the District Board and expended for infrastructure facilities (as that term is commonly defined) in the Big Sky Resort Area District; public services, including but not limited to the establishment and maintenance of an adequately-sized post office; ambulance and other emergency medical services; public transportation systems; snow plowing; tourism development for the Big Sky Resort Area District; other services that provide for the public health, safety, and welfare within the Big Sky Resort Area District; and reimbursement or payment to the resort area district of the costs associated with the collection, administration, and litigation of the resort tax.

Section 20. Authority to Hire Administrative and Other Employees: The District Board may hire an administrative officer and other employees to assist in the administration of the resort tax who shall serve at the pleasure of the District Board.

Section 21. Ratification: The District Board hereby ratifies all prior appropriations and obligations of resort tax funds made by the Madison and Gallatin County Commissions which preceded the creation of the Big Sky Resort Area District.

Section 22. Severance Clause: If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, or phrase of this Ordinance or any part thereof is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or in violation of any law, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or any part thereof.

Section 23. Amendment of Ordinance: Except for Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 19 and 21 of this Ordinance, said administrative ordinance may be amended at any time thereafter as may be necessary to effectively administer the resort tax and must include the requirements of section 7-6-1505, MCA.

Section 24. Map of Big Sky Resort Area District. A map of the Big Sky Resort Area District as approved by the electors on April 7, 1998, is attached to this ordinance for reference.

Passed by the District Board of the Big Sky Resort Area District on the following dates:

1st Reading: March 1, 2000

2nd Reading: April 5, 2000

BY: Robert D. Schae  
Chairman, Board of Directors of the  
Big Sky Resort Area District

DATE: May 3, 2000

Carol L. Collins  
Member

DATE: May 3, 2000

Statter S. Ainsworth  
Member

DATE: May 3, 2000

Richard Bergan  
Member

DATE: May 3, 2000

Lee H. H. Paper  
Member

DATE: May 3, 2000