
Chapter 8.02

8.02 TRANSIENT ROOM TAX

8.02.010 Definitions

Except where the context otherwise requires, the definitions given in this section govern the construction of this chapter.

- A. ACCRUAL ACCOUNTING means the operator enters the rent due from a transient on his records when the rent is earned, whether or not it is paid.
 - B. BOARD means the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners.
 - C. CASH ACCOUNTING means the operator does not enter the rent due from a transient on his records until rent is paid.
 - D. COUNTY means Clackamas County.
 - E. HOTEL means any structure, or any portion of any structure, which is occupied or intended or designed for transient occupancy, for thirty (30) days or less, for dwelling, lodging, or sleeping purposes. This includes, but is not limited to, any hotel, motel, inn, bed and breakfast, space in mobile home or trailer parks, tourist home, condominium, hostel, studio hotel, lodging house, rooming house, apartment house, public or private dormitory, fraternity, sorority, public or private club, or similar structure or portions thereof so occupied.
 - F. OCCUPANCY means the use or possession, or the right to the use or possession, for lodging or sleeping purposes, of any room or rooms in a hotel, or space in a mobile home, or trailer park, or portion thereof.
 - G. OPERATOR means the person who is proprietor of the hotel in any capacity. Where the operator performs his functions through a managing agent of any type or character other than an employee, the managing agent shall also be deemed an operator for the purposes of this chapter and shall have the same duties and liabilities as his principal. Compliance with the provisions of this chapter, by either the principal or the managing agent, shall be considered to be compliance by both.
 - H. PERSON means any individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, social club, fraternal organization, fraternity, sorority, public or private dormitory, joint stock company, corporation, estate, trust, business trust, receiver, trustee, syndicate, or any other group or combination acting as a unit.
 - I. RENT means the consideration charged, whether or not received by the operator, for the occupancy of space in a hotel, valued in money, goods, labor, credits, property, or any other consideration valued in money, without any deduction; but does not include the sale of any goods, services, and commodities, other than the furnishing of room accommodations and parking space in mobile home parks or trailer parks.
 - J. RENT PACKAGE PLAN means the consideration charged for both food and rent where a single rate is made for the total of both. The amount applicable to rent for determination of transient room tax under this chapter shall be the same charge
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- made for rent when consideration is not a part of a package plan.
- K. TAX ADMINISTRATOR means the official appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to carry out provisions of this chapter.
- L. TAX means either the tax payable by the transient or the aggregate amount of taxes due from an operator during the period for which he is required to report his collections.
- M. TRANSIENT means any person who exercises occupancy, or is entitled to occupancy, in a hotel for a period of thirty (30) consecutive calendar days or less, counting portions of calendar days as full days. The day a transient checks out of the hotel shall not be included in determining the thirty (30) day period if the transient is not charged rent for that day by the operator. Any such person so occupying space in a hotel shall be deemed to be a transient until the period of thirty (30) days has expired, unless there is an agreement in writing between the operator and the occupant providing for a longer period of occupancy, or the tenancy actually extends more than thirty (30) consecutive days. In determining whether a person is a transient, uninterrupted periods of time extending both prior and subsequent to the effective date of this chapter, may be considered. A person who pays for lodging on a monthly basis, irrespective of the number of days in such month, shall not be deemed a transient.

[Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00]

8.02.020 Tax Imposed

For the privilege of occupancy in any hotel, on and after the effective date of this chapter, each transient shall pay a tax in the amount of six percent (6%) of the rent charged by the operator. The tax constitutes a debt owed by the transient to the County, which is extinguished only by payment to the operator. The transient shall pay the tax to the operator of the hotel at the time the rent is paid. The operator shall enter the tax on his records when rent is collected if the operator keeps his records on the cash accounting basis, and when earned if the operator keeps his records on the accrual accounting basis. If rent is paid in installments, the transient shall pay a proportionate share of the tax to the operator with each installment.

[Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00]

8.02.030 Where Tax is Imposed

The tax imposed by this chapter shall apply to all hotels located within Clackamas County.

[Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00]

8.02.040 Collections of Tax by Operator, Rules for Collection

- A. Every operator renting rooms in this County, the occupancy of which is not exempted under the terms of this chapter, shall collect a tax from the occupant. The tax collected or accrued by the operator constitutes a debt owed by the operator to the County.
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- B. In all cases of credit or deferred payment of rent, the payment of tax to the operator may be deferred until the rent is paid, and the operator shall not be liable for the tax until credits are paid or deferred payments are made.
- C. For rent collected on portions of a dollar, the first one cent (\$.01) of tax shall be collected on five cents (\$.05) through twenty-one cents (\$.21) inclusive; and the second one cent (\$.01) of tax on twenty-two cents (\$.22) through thirty-eight cents (\$.38); the third one cent (\$.01) of tax on thirty-nine cents (\$.39) through fifty-five cents (\$.55); the fourth one cent (\$.01) of tax on fifty-six cents (\$.56) through seventy-two cents (\$.72); the fifth one cent (\$.01) of tax on seventy-three cents (\$.73) through eighty-nine cents (\$.89); and the sixth one cent (\$.01) of tax on ninety cents (\$.90) through the next one dollar and four cents (\$1.04) of rent.

[Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00]

8.02.050 Operator's Duties

Each operator shall collect the tax imposed by this chapter at the same time as the rent is collected from every transient. The amount of tax shall be separately stated upon the operator's records and any receipt rendered by the operator. No operator of a hotel shall advertise that the tax, or any part of the tax, will be assumed or absorbed by the operator, or that it will not be added to the rent, or that when added, any part will be refunded, except in the manner provided by this chapter.

[Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00]

8.02.060 Exemptions

No tax imposed under this chapter shall be imposed upon:

- A. Any person for more than thirty (30) successive calendar days; (a person who pays for lodging on a monthly basis, irrespective of the number of days in such month, shall not be deemed a transient);
- B. Any person whose rent is of a value less than \$15.01 per day;
- C. Any person who rents a private home, vacation cabin, or like facility from any owner who personally rents such facilities incidentally to his own use thereof;
- D. Any occupant whose rent is paid for hospital room or to a medical clinic, convalescent home or home for aged people; or
- E. Employees, officials or agents of the U. S. Government occupying a hotel in the course of official business.

[Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00; Amended by Ord. 03-2005, 5-26-05; Amended by Ord. 02-2010, 2/25/10]

8.02.070 Registration of Operator, Form and Contents, Execution, Certification of Authority

Every person engaging or about to engage in, business as an operator of a hotel in this County shall register with the Tax Administrator on a form provided by him or her. Operators engaged in business at the time this chapter is adopted, must not register later than thirty (30) calendar days after passage of this chapter. Operators starting business

after this chapter is adopted must register within fifteen (15) calendar days after commencing business. The privilege of registration after the date of imposition of such tax shall not relieve any person from the obligation of payment, or collection of tax, regardless of registration. Registration shall set forth the name under which an operator transacts or intends to transact business, the location of his place or places of business and such other information to facilitate the collection of the tax as the Tax Administrator may require. The operator shall sign the registration. The Tax Administrator shall, within ten (10) days after registration, issue without charge from the occupant, a Certificate of Authority to the registrant to collect the tax, from the occupant of the hotel, together with a duplicate thereof, for each additional place of business for each registrant. Certificates shall be non-assignable and nontransferable and shall be surrendered immediately to the Tax Administrator upon the cessation of business at the location named or upon its sale or transfer. Each certificate and duplicate shall state the place of business to which it is applicable and shall be prominently displayed therein so as to be seen and come to the notice readily of all occupants and persons seeking occupancy.

Said certificate shall, among other things, state the following:

- A. The name of the operator;
- B. The address of the hotel;
- C. The date upon which the certificate was issued; and,
- D. “This Transient Occupancy Registration Certificate signifies that the person named on the face hereof has fulfilled the requirements of the Transient Room Tax Chapter of the Clackamas County Code by registration with the Tax Administrator for the purpose of collecting from transients the room tax imposed by the County and remitting the tax to the Tax Administrator.”

[Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00]

8.02.080 Due Date, Returns, and Payments

- A. The transient shall pay the tax imposed by this chapter to the operator at the time that rent is paid. All amounts of such taxes collected by any operator are due and payable to the Tax Administrator on a monthly basis on the fifteenth (15th) day of the month for the preceding month and are delinquent on the last day of the month in which they are due.
 - B. On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the month following each month of collection a return for the preceding month's tax collections shall be filed with the Tax Administrator. The return shall be filed in such form as the Tax Administrator may prescribe by every operator liable for payment of tax.
 - C. Returns shall show the amount of tax collected or otherwise due for the related period. The Tax Administrator may require returns to show the total rentals upon which tax was collected or otherwise due, gross receipts of the operator for such period, and an explanation in detail of any discrepancy between such amounts, and the amount of rents exempt, if any.
 - D. The person that required filing the return should deliver the return together with the remittance of the amount of the tax due to the Tax Administrator at his office either by personal delivery or by mail. If the return is mailed, the postmark shall
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- be considered the date of delivery for determining delinquencies.
- E. For good cause, the Tax Administrator may extend for up to one (1) month the time for making any return or payment of tax. No further extension shall be granted, except by the Board. Any operator to whom an extension is granted shall pay interest at the rate of one percent (1%) per month, on the amount of tax due without proration for a fraction of a month. If a return is not filed and the tax and interest due is not paid by the end of the extension granted, then the interest shall become a part of the tax for computation of penalties described elsewhere in this chapter.
- F. If the operator has complied with the terms of this chapter and particularly the provisions of this section relating to prompt payment of taxes due and payable to the Tax Administrator, the operator shall be permitted to deduct as collection expense five percent (5%) of the amount of the taxes collected, as shown by the return mentioned in paragraph C of this section.

[Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00]

8.02.090 Penalties and Interest

- A. Original Delinquency: Any operator who has not been granted an extension of time for remittance of tax due, and who fails to remit any tax imposed by this chapter prior to delinquency, shall pay a penalty of ten percent (10 %) of the amount of tax due in addition of the amount of the tax.
- B. Continued Delinquency: Any operator who has not been granted an extension of time for remittance of tax due, and who failed to pay any delinquent remittance on or before a period of thirty (30) days following the date on which the remittance first became delinquent, shall pay a second delinquency penalty of fifteen percent (15%) of the amount of the tax due, plus the amount of the tax due, and the ten percent (10%) penalty first imposed.
- C. Fraud: If the Tax Administrator determines that the nonpayment of any remittance due under this chapter is due to fraud, or intent to evade the provisions thereof, a penalty of twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount of the tax due shall be added thereto, in addition to the penalties stated in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this section.
- D. Interest: In addition to the penalties imposed, any operator who fails to remit any tax imposed by this chapter shall pay interest at the rate of one-half of one percent (.5%) per month or fraction thereof without proration for portions of a month on the amount of the tax due, exclusive of penalties, for the date on which the remittance first became delinquent until paid.
- E. Penalties merged with tax: Every penalty imposed and such interest as accrues under the provisions of this chapter, shall be merged with and become a part of the tax herein required to be paid.
- F. Petition for waiver: Any operator who fails to remit the tax levied within the time stated, shall pay the penalties stated. However, the operator may petition the Board for waiver and refund of the penalty or any portion thereof, and the Board may if a good and sufficient reason is shown, waive and direct a refund of the penalty or any portion thereof.

[Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00]

8.02.100 Deficiency Determinations, Fraud, Evasion, Operator Delay

- A. Deficiency determination: If the Tax Administrator determines that the returns are incorrect, he or she may compute and determine the amount required to be paid upon the basis of the facts contained in the return or returns, or upon the basis of any information within his or her possession. One or more deficiency determinations may be made of the amount due for one or more than one period, and the amount so determined shall be due and payable immediately upon service of notice as herein provided, after which the amount determined is delinquent. Penalties on deficiencies shall be applied as set forth in 8.02.090.
1. In making a Determination, the Tax Administrator may offset overpayments, if any, which may have been previously made for a period or periods against any underpayment for a subsequent period or periods, or against penalties and interest on the underpayments. The interest on underpayments shall be computed in the manner set forth in 8.02.090.
 2. The Tax Administrator shall give to the operator or occupant a written notice of his determination. The notice may be served personally or by certified mail. In the case of service by mail of any notice required by this chapter, the service is complete upon receipt by the operator or his agent or employee, or if refused, the date of its refusal as shown by the United States Postal Department return receipt.
 3. Except in the case of fraud or intent to evade this chapter or authorized rules and regulations, every deficiency determination shall be made and notice thereof mailed within three (3) years after the last day of the month following the close of the monthly period for which the amount is proposed to be determined or within three years after the return is filed, whichever period expires the later.
 4. Any determination shall become due and payable immediately upon receipt of notice and shall become final within ten (10) days after the Tax Administrator has given notice thereof. However, the operator may petition for redemption and refund if the petition is filed before the determination becomes final as herein provided.
- B. Fraud, Refusal to Collect, Evasion. If any operator shall fail or refuse to collect said tax or to make within the time provided in this chapter any report and remittance of said tax or any portion thereof required by this chapter, or makes a fraudulent return or otherwise willfully attempts to evade this chapter, the Tax Administrator shall proceed in such manner as he/she may deem best to obtain facts and information on which to base an estimate of the tax due. As soon as the Tax Administrator has determined the tax due that is imposed by this chapter from any operator who has failed or refused to collect the same and to report and remit said tax, he/she shall proceed to determine and assess against such operator the tax, interest, and penalties provided for by this chapter. In case such determination is made, the Tax Administrator shall give a notice in the manner aforesaid of the amount so assessed. Such determination and notice shall be made and mailed within three (3) years after discovery by the Tax Administrator of any
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- fraud, intent to evade, or failure, or refusal to collect said tax or failure to file return. Any determination shall become due and payable immediately upon receipt of notice and shall become final within ten (10) days after the Tax Administrator has given notice thereof. However, the operator may petition for redemption and refund if the petition is filed before the determination becomes final as herein provided.
- C. Operator Delay. If the Tax Administrator believes that the collection of any tax or any amount of tax required to be collected and paid to the County, will be jeopardized by delay or if any determination will be jeopardized by delay, s/he shall thereupon make a determination of the tax or amount of tax required to be collected noting the fact upon the determination. The amount so determined as herein provided shall be immediately due and payable, and the operator shall immediately pay same determination to the Tax Administrator after service of notice thereof provided. However, the operator may petition after payment has been made for redemption and refund of such determination, if the petition is filed within ten (10) days from the date of service of notice by the Tax Administrator.
- [Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00]

8.02.110 Re-determinations

- A. Any operator against whom a determination is made under Section 8.02.100 or any person directly interested may petition for a re-determination and redemption and refund within the time required in 8.02.100, hereof. If a petition for re-determination and refund is not filed within the time required in 8.02.100, the determination becomes final at the expiration of the allowable time.
- B. If a petition for re-determination and refund is filed within the allowable period, the Tax Administrator shall reconsider the determination, and if the person has so requested in his petition, shall grant the person an oral hearing, and shall give him ten (10) days notice of the time and place of the hearing. The Tax Administrator may continue the hearing from time to time as may be necessary.
- C. The Tax Administrator may decrease or increase the amount of the determination as a result of the hearing, and if an increase is determined, such increase shall be payable immediately after the hearing.
- D. The order or decision of the Tax Administrator upon a petition for re-determination of redemption and refund becomes final ten (10) days after service upon the petitioner of notice thereof, unless appeal of such order or a decision is filed with the Board within ten (10) days after service of such notice.
- E. No petition for re-determination of redemption and refund or appeal there from shall be effective for any purpose unless the operator has first complied with the payment provisions hereof.

[Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00]

8.02.120 Security, Collection of Tax

- A. The Tax Administrator, after delinquency and when he or she deems it necessary to insure compliance with this chapter, may require any operator subject thereto to
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- deposit with him/her such security in the form of cash, bond, or other security as the Tax Administrator may determine. The amount of the security shall be fixed by the Tax Administrator but shall not be greater than twice the operator's estimated average monthly liability for the period for which he files returns, determined in such manner as the Tax Administrator deems proper, or Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000), whichever amount is the lesser. The amount of the security may be increased or decreased by the Tax Administrator subject to the limitations herein provided.
- B. At any time within three (3) years after any tax or any amount of tax required to be collected becomes due and payable or at any time within three (3) years after any determination becomes final, the Tax Administrator may bring an action in the courts of this State, or any State, or of the United States in the name of the County to collect the amount delinquent together with penalties and interest.
- [Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00]

8.02.130 Lien

- A. The tax imposed by this chapter together with the interest and penalties herein provided and the filing fees paid to the Clerk of Clackamas County, Oregon, and advertising costs which may be incurred when same becomes delinquent as set forth in this chapter shall be and until paid remain a lien from the date of its recording with the Clerk of Clackamas County, Oregon, and superior to all subsequent recorded liens on all tangible personal property used in the hotel of an operator, which may be foreclosed on and sold as may be necessary to discharge said lien if the lien has been recorded. Notice of lien may be issued by the Tax Administrator or his or her deputy whenever the operator is in default in the payment of said tax, interest, and penalty and shall be recorded and a copy sent by certified mail to the delinquent operator. The personal property subject to such lien may be seized by any authorized deputy or employee of the Tax Administrator and may be sold at public auction after twenty- (20) days notice of sale given by two publications in a newspaper of general circulation in the County. The notices required hereunder shall be published not less than seven (7) days apart. Such seizure and sale shall be in addition to any other process to secure payment of the delinquent tax allowed by law.
- B. Any lien for taxes shall upon the payment of all taxes, penalties, and interest thereon be released by the Tax Administrator, and the operator or person making such payment shall receive a receipt therefore stating that the full amount of taxes, penalties, and interest thereon have been paid and that the lien is thereby released.
- [Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00]

8.02.140 Refunds

- A. Operators' refunds. Whenever the amount of any tax, penalty, or interest has been paid more than once or has been erroneously or illegally collected or received by the Tax Administrator under this chapter, it may be refunded provided a verified claim in writing therefore stating the specific reason upon which the claim is
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- founded is filed with the Tax Administrator within three (3) years from the date of payment. The claim shall be made on forms provided by the Tax Administrator. If the claim is approved by the Tax Administrator, the excess amount collected or paid may be refunded or may be credited on any amounts then due and payable from the operator from whom it was collected or by whom paid, and the balance may be refunded to each such operator, his administrators, executors or assignees.
- B. Transient Refunds. Whenever the tax required by this chapter has been collected by the operator and deposited by the operator with the Tax Administrator and it is later determined that the tax was erroneously or illegally collected or received by the Tax Administrator, it may be refunded by the Tax Administrator to the transient provided a verified claim in writing therefore, the specific reason on which the claim is founded, is filed with the Tax Administrator within three (3) years from the date of payment.
- [Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00]

8.02.150 Administration

- A. Transient Room Tax Fund. The Tax Administrator shall place all monies received pursuant to this order in the Transient Room Tax Fund.
- B. Records Required from Operators. Every operator shall keep guest records of room sales and accounting books and records of room sales. The operator shall retain all records for a period of three (3) years and six (6) months after they come into being.
- C. Examination of Records, Investigations. For the purpose of enforcing 8.02.100 of this chapter, if the Tax Administrator has reason to believe that the returns are incorrect or that fraud, refusal to remit, evasion or operator delay has occurred as set forth in 8.02.100 of this chapter, then the Tax Administrator or any person authorized in writing by him or her may examine during normal business hours the books, papers, and accounting records relating to room sales of any operator after notification to the operator liable for the tax and may investigate the business of the operator in order to verify the accuracy of any return made, or if no return is made by the operator, to ascertain and determine the amount required to be paid.
- D. Confidential Character of Information Obtained, Disclosure Unlawful. It shall be unlawful for the Tax Administrator or any person having an administrative or clerical duty under the provisions of this chapter to make known in any manner whatever the business affairs, operations, or information obtained by an investigation of records and equipment of any person required to obtain a Transient Occupancy Registration Certificate or pay a transient occupancy tax, or any other person visited or examined in the discharge of official duty, or the amount of source of income, profits, losses, expenditures, or any particular thereof set forth in any statement or application, or to permit any statement or application, or copy of either, or any book containing any abstract or particulars thereof to be seen or examined by any person. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent:
1. The disclosure to or the examination of records and equipment by another
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county official, employee, or agent for collection of taxes for the sole purpose of administering or enforcing any provisions of this chapter or collecting taxes imposed hereunder;

2. The disclosure after the filing of a written request to that effect to the taxpayer himself receivers, trustees, executors, administrators' assignees, and guarantors if directly interested of information as to any paid tax, and unpaid tax or amount of tax required to be collected, or interest, and penalties; further provided, however, that the Clackamas County Counsel approves each such disclosure, and that the Tax Administrator may refuse to make any disclosure referred to in this paragraph when in his/her opinion the public interest would suffer thereby;
3. The disclosure of the names and addresses of any persons to whom Transient Occupancy Registration Certificates have been issued; or
4. The disclosure of general statistics regarding taxes collected or business done in the County.

[Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00]

8.02.160 Tax Revenue Sharing

- A. Commencing with tax revenues collected January 1, 1993, the total net transient room tax receipts after operator collection expense of 5% and County administrative costs, not to exceed 2%, have been deducted, shall be distributed by the Tax Administrator as follows:
 1. Between January 1, 1993, and June 30, 1993, an amount sufficient to bring proceeds up to a base support amount of \$250,000 per year shall be paid in equal quarterly installments to the Clackamas County Fair; this amount shall be adjusted annually to allow for inflation by an amount to be determined by the Tourism Development Council (TDC); these funds shall be used by the Fair for construction, operations and maintenance, in accordance with its annual budget approved by the Board; and,
 2. The balance placed with the County Treasurer for deposit until transferred to the TDC monthly to pay expenditures authorized as provided below.
 - B. There is hereby created the Clackamas County Tourism Development Council, consisting of nine (9) members to be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The TDC is to oversee the development and promotion of tourism and conventions in Clackamas County.
 - C. The TDC is to develop, adopt and implement, subject to Board of County Commissioners' approval, a Tourism Development and Promotion Master Plan. The Master Plan shall address at least the following elements: tourism promotion, tourism development, conventions, visitor information services, special events and festivals, and the County Fair. The Master Plan may be revised from time to time, subject to Board of County Commissioners' approval. Prior to adoption of the Master Plan, the TDC may adopt, subject to Board of County Commissioners' approval, an Interim Plan.
 - D. The funds described in subsection 8.02.160 A 2 above shall be allocated to projects and programs by the TDC in accordance with the Tourism Development
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and Promotion Master Plan, except that revenues collected prior to final Board of County Commissioners' approval of a Master Plan may be expended pursuant to an interim Plan, if adopted.
[Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00]

8.02.170 Appeals to the Board

Any person aggrieved by any provisions of the Tax Administrator may appeal to the Board by filing a notice of appeal with the Tax Administrator within ten (10) days of the Administrator's decision. The Tax Administrator shall transmit said notice of appeal, together with the file of said appealed matter to the Board who shall fix a time and place for hearing such appeal. The Board shall give the appellant not less than ten (10) days written notice of the time and place of hearing of said appealed matter.
[Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00]

8.02.180 Violations

It is unlawful for any operator or other person so required, to fail or refuse to register as required herein, or to furnish any return required to be made, or fail or refuse to furnish a supplemental return or other data required by the Tax Administrator, or to render a false or fraudulent return. No person required to make, render, sign, or verify any report shall make any false or fraudulent report with intent to defeat or evade the determination of any amount due, required by this chapter. Any person willfully violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to a fine in an amount set by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners.
[Codified by Ord. 05-2000, 7/13/00; Amended by Ord. 5-2003, 3/13/03]
