

COOK COUNTY AMUSEMENT TAX ORDINANCE

SECTION 1 - TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "Cook County Amusement Tax Ordinance." The tax herein imposed is in addition to all other taxes imposed by the County of Cook, the State of Illinois or any municipal corporation or political subdivision of any of the foregoing.

SECTION 2 - DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Ordinance:

"Amusement" means: any exhibition, performance, presentation or show for entertainment purposes, including, but not limited to, any theatrical, dramatic, musical or spectacular performance, promotional show, motion picture show, flower, poultry or animal show, animal act, circus, rodeo, athletic contest, sport, game or similar exhibition, such as boxing, wrestling, skating, dancing, swimming, riding on animals or vehicles, baseball, basketball, softball, soccer, football, tennis, golf, hockey, track and field games, bowling, or billiard and pool games.

For purposes of this Ordinance, amusement shall not mean, any recreational activity offered for public participation or on a membership or other basis, including, but not limited to, carnivals, amusement park rides and games, bowling, billiards and pool games, dancing, tennis, golf, racquetball, swimming, weightlifting, body building or similar activities.

For purposes of this Ordinance, amusement shall not mean raffles, as defined in the Illinois Compiled Statutes, ch. 230, sec. 15/1, as now or hereafter amended, inter-track wagering facilities, as defined in the Illinois Compiled Statutes, ch. 230, sec. 5/3, as now or hereafter amended, or automatic amusement devices.

"Automatic amusement devices" means any machine which upon the insertion of a coin, slug, token, or similar object may be operated generally by any person for use as a game, entertainment or amusement, whether or not registering a score, and includes but is not limited to such devices as jukeboxes, marble machines, pinball machines, video games, movie or video booths or stands and all games, operations or transactions similar thereto under whatever name by which they may be indicated.

"Department" or "Department of Revenue" means the Cook County Department of Revenue.

"Live theatrical, live musical or other live cultural performance" means a live performance in any of the disciplines which are commonly regarded as part of the fine arts, such as live theater, music, opera, drama, comedy, ballet, modern or traditional dance, and book or poetry readings. The term does not include such amusements as athletic events, races, or performances conducted at adult entertainment cabarets (as defined in Article 14.21 of the Cook County Zoning Ordinance 76-0-15, as amended).

"Owner" means: (1) with respect to the owner of a place where an amusement is being held, any person who has an ownership or leasehold interest in a building, structure, vehicle, boat, area or other place who presents, conducts or operates an amusement in such place or who allows, by agreement or otherwise, another person to present, conduct or operate an amusement in such place; (2) with respect to the owner of an amusement, any person which has an ownership or leasehold interest in such amusement or any person who has a proprietary interest in the amusement so as to entitle such person to all or a portion of the proceeds, after payment of reasonable expenses, from the operation, conduct or presentation of such amusement, excluding proceeds from non-amusement services and from sales of tangible personal property.

"Person" means any natural individual, firm, society, foundation, institution, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint stock company, joint venture, public or private corporation, receiver, executor, trustee or other representative appointed by the order of any court, or any other entity recognized by law as the subject of rights and duties. The masculine, feminine, singular and plural are included in any circumstance.

"Maximum capacity" means the persons that an auditorium, theater or other space may accommodate as determined by

the local Fire Department or other appropriate governmental agency; provided, however, that "maximum capacity" shall not exceed the maximum number of tickets or admissions that may be made available for sale to a performance as stated in any binding written agreement relating to that performance. If the number of tickets or admissions actually sold to a performance exceeds the legally permissible limit, then, for purposes of determining the applicable tax, "maximum capacity" shall mean such greater number.

SECTION 3 - TAX IMPOSED

A. Except as otherwise provided by this Section, an amusement tax is imposed upon the patrons of every amusement, which takes place within the County. The rate of the tax shall be, equal to 3% of the admission fees or other charges paid for the privilege to enter, to witness or to view such amusement, unless Subsection G of this Section provides for a lower rate.

B. The tax imposed by Subsection A shall not apply to the following persons or privileges:

- (1) The privilege of witnessing any stock show or business show that is not open to the general public, or
- (2) The privilege of witnessing any amateur production or activity such as amateur musicals, plays and athletic events conducted by a not-for-profit organization operated exclusively for charitable, educational or religious purposes, or
- (3) Subject to satisfying the requirement contained in Subsection C of this Section, the privilege of witnessing any amusement sponsored or conducted by and the proceeds of which, after payment of reasonable expenses, inure exclusively to the benefit of :
 - (a) Religious, educational and charitable institutions, societies or organizations;
 - (b) Societies or organizations for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals;
 - (c) Societies or organizations conducted and maintained for the purpose of civic improvement;
 - (d) Fraternal organizations, legion posts, social and political groups which conduct amusements, sponsored occasionally but not more often than twice yearly;

Provided, however, that the entities described in paragraphs (a) to (d) are not-for-profit institutions, organizations, groups or societies, where no part of the net earnings inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or person;

- (e) Organizations or persons in the armed services of the United States, or National Guard organizations, reserve officers' associations, or organizations or posts of war veterans, or auxiliary units or societies of such posts or organizations, if such posts, organizations, units or societies are organized in the State of Illinois, and if no part of their earnings inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or person;
- (f) Organizations or associations created and maintained for the purpose of benefiting the members, or dependents or heirs of members, of the police or fire departments of any political subdivision of the State of Illinois;

Provided that the exemptions contained in paragraphs (a) through (f) shall apply only to benefits or other fundraising events and shall not apply to more than two events per calendar year which shall not exceed a total of 14 calendar days.

- (g) Societies or organizations conducted for the sole purpose of maintaining symphony orchestras, opera performances or artistic presentations, including, but not limited to, musical presentations, ("artistic societies or organizations"), if the artistic society or organization (i) receives substantial support from voluntary contributions, (ii) is a not-for-profit institution where no part of the net earnings inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or person, and (iii) either (a) bears all risk of financial loss from its

presentation of the amusement, where the amusement takes place at a venue that is owned or operated by, a not-for-profit institution, no part of whose net earnings inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or person, and where the amusement is limited to an engagement of not more than four calendar days over the course of a calendar year or (b) is substantially and materially involved in the production and performance of the amusement. Where an amusement is sponsored or conducted by two or more artistic societies or organizations, the requirements of subsection (i) and (ii) of this subsection must be met by each of such artistic societies or organizations, but the requirements of subsection (iii) may be met by any of such artistic societies or organizations, individually or in combination.

- C. None of the exemptions contained in subsection B (3) of this section shall apply to a person or privilege unless a written application for exemption is filed with the Department at least 15 calendar days prior to the amusement. The application shall be on a form prescribed by the Director of Revenue and shall contain all information and materials necessary to permit the Department to determine whether the exemption claimed by the applicant is applicable.
- D. The tax imposed in Subsection A of this Section shall not apply to or be imposed upon:
- (1) The admission fees to witness in person, live theatrical, live musical or other live cultural performances that take place in any auditorium, theater or other space in the County, whose maximum capacity, including all balconies and other sections, is not more than 750 persons.
 - (2) Initiation fees and membership dues paid to a health club, racquetball club, tennis club or a similar club or organization, when such club or organization is organized and operated on a membership basis and for the recreational purposes of its members and its members' guests, shall be exempt from the tax imposed in Subsection A of this Section. This exemption shall not be construed to apply to any fees paid or based upon, a per-event or a per-admission basis.
 - (3) Fees or other charges paid by a patron for the privilege of witnessing, viewing or participating in an amusement, solely within the confines of such patron's home, shall be exempt from the imposition of the tax imposed in Subsection A of this Section. For purposes of this exemption, "home" means the permanent dwelling residence of the patron. For patrons who live in condominium buildings, apartment buildings or other multiple-unit structures, the individual dwelling unit the patron occupies shall be considered the patron's home.
- E. For the purpose of determining the amount of the amusement tax due under this Ordinance, admission fees or other charges shall be computed exclusive of any federal, state or municipal taxes imposed upon the amusement patron and any separately stated charges for non-amusement services or for sales of tangible personal property.
- F. It is unlawful for any person to produce, present or conduct any amusement, without collection of the tax, except as provided in this Ordinance.
- G. (1) The rate of the tax imposed in Subsection A of this Section shall be 1% of the admission fees or other charges to witness in person live theatrical, live musical or other live cultural performances that take place in any auditorium, theater or other space in the County whose maximum capacity, including all balconies and other sections, is more than 750 persons and less than 5,000 persons.
- (2) The rate of the tax imposed in Subsection A of this Section shall be 1.5% of the admission fees or other charges to witness in person live theatrical, live musical or other live cultural performances that take place in any auditorium, theater or other space in the County whose maximum capacity, including all balconies and other sections, is 5,000 persons or more.

SECTION 4 - REGISTRATION

Every owner, manager or operator of an amusement or of a place where an amusement is being held in the County, shall apply for registration as a tax collector with the Department no later than 30 days after commencing such business or 30

days after the effective date of this Ordinance, whichever occurs later. Application for registration shall be made to the Department by use of the form furnished by the Department for such purpose and shall contain such information as the Department may reasonably require.

SECTION 5 - COLLECTION, PAYMENT AND ACCOUNTING

A. It shall be the joint and several duty of every owner, manager or operator of an amusement or of a place where an amusement is being held to secure from each patron the tax imposed by this Ordinance and to remit the tax to the Department of Revenue not later than the last day of each calendar month for all admission fees or other charges received during the immediately preceding calendar month, less a discount of one percent of the tax collected. This discount is allowed to reimburse the tax collector for the expenses incurred in collecting the tax, keeping records, remitting the tax and supplying data to the Department of Revenue. However, the discount herein provided shall not be allowed for any taxes not paid when due. A verified statement of admission fees or charges in a form prescribed by the Director of Revenue shall accompany each remittance. Acceptance by the County of any amount tendered in payment of the tax shall be without prejudice to any claim, demand or right on account of any deficiency.

B. Canceled admission tickets and complete and accurate records, books and accounts in detail of all receipts shall be kept at the place of amusement or such other place in the County as may be designated in writing by the person liable for collection of the tax. All such books, records and accounts shall be open to inspection by the Department at all reasonable times during business hours.

C. Every owner, manager, or operator who is required to collect the tax imposed by this Ordinance shall be considered a tax collector for the County. All amusement taxes collected shall be held by such tax collector as trustee for and on behalf of the County. The failure of the tax collector to collect the tax shall not excuse or release the patron from the obligation to pay the tax.

D. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Ordinance, in order to permit sound fiscal planning and budgeting by the County, no person shall be entitled to a refund of, or credit for, the tax imposed by this Ordinance unless the person files a claim for refund or credit within one year after the date on which the tax was paid or remitted to the Department.

SECTION 6 - RULES AND REGULATIONS - AUTHORIZED

The Department of Revenue is authorized to adopt, promulgate and enforce rules and regulations pertaining to the administration and enforcement of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7 - APPLICATION OF UNIFORM PENALTIES, INTEREST AND PROCEDURES ORDINANCE

Whenever not inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance or whenever this Ordinance is silent, the provisions of the Uniform Penalties, Interest and Procedures Ordinance, shall apply and supplement this Ordinance

SECTION 8 - SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Ordinance, or the application of any provision to any item in this Ordinance, is held invalid, the invalidity of that provision or application shall not affect any of the other provisions or the application of those provisions to other items in this Ordinance.

SECTION 9 - VIOLATIONS -- PENALTY

Any person violating any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not less than \$200.00 nor more than \$500.00 for each offense. Every day such violation continues shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.

SECTION 10 - EFFECTIVE DATE

This amendatory Ordinance shall take effect and be in force as of April 1, 1999.