Agency Name: Department of Revenue

Statutory Authority: 12-4-320

Document Number: 4665

Proposed in State Register Volume and Issue: 40/9

House Committee: Regulations and Administrative Procedures Committee

Senate Committee: Finance Committee

120 Day Review Expiration Date for Automatic Approval 01/19/2018

Final in State Register Volume and Issue: 42/2

Status: Final

Subject: Examples of the Application of Tax to Various Charges Imposed by Hotels, Motels, and Other Facilities

History: 4665

By Date Action Description Jt. Res. No. Expiration Date

- 09/23/2016 Proposed Reg Published in SR

- 01/10/2017 Received by Lt. Gov & Speaker 05/10/2017

H 01/10/2017 Referred to Committee

S 01/10/2017 Referred to Committee

H 01/26/2017 Committee Requested Withdrawal

120 Day Period Tolled

- 02/07/2017 Withdrawn and Resubmitted 01/19/2018

H 04/18/2017 Resolution Introduced to Approve 4135

- 01/19/2018 Approved by: Expiration Date

- 02/23/2018 Effective Date unless otherwise

provided for in the Regulation

Document No. 4665

**DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

CHAPTER 117

Statutory Authority:1976 Code Section 12-4-320

117-307.1. Examples of the Application of Tax to Various Charges Imposed by Hotels, Motels, and Other Facilities.

**Synopsis:**

The South Carolina Department of Revenue is considering amending SC Regulation 117-307.1, which provides examples of the application of the sales tax imposed on various charges by hotels, motels, and similar facilities to transient customers. Code Section 12-36-920(A) imposes a 7% sales tax on accommodations on the gross proceeds of rentals of rooms or lodgings provided by hotels, motels, and similar facilities; and Code Section 12-36-920(B) imposes a sales tax on certain additional guest charges.

Effective July 1, 2014, Act 172 of 2014 amended Code Section 12-36-920(B) to limit additional guest charges to room service, laundering and dry cleaning services, in-room movies, telephone service, and rentals of meeting rooms; and amended Code Section 12-36-920(A) to provide that separately stated optional charges on a bill to a customer for amenities, entertainment, special items in promotional tourist packages, and other guest services are exempt from the 7% sales tax on accommodations.

The purpose of this regulation proposal is to revise the provisions of SC Regulation 117-307.1 to comply with Act 172 of 2014, which limited the sales tax on additional guest charges to room service, laundering and dry cleaning services, in-room movies, telephone service, and rentals of meeting rooms, and to inform the public of the impact of the new legislation. Additional questions were added to address room refreshment bars, safes, and other issues. The information in the regulation is consistent with the department’s position, as expressed in SC Revenue Ruling #14-5. The amendment would be effective July 1, 2014, which is the effective date of the new legislation.

Section-by-Section Discussion:

From 117-307.1. Examples of the Application of Tax to Various Charges Imposed by Hotels, Motels, and Other Facilities – 1.Q. No Changes

1.A. Delete third sentence as unnecessary. No other changes.

2.Q.-5.Q. No changes.

5.A. Change second sentence for clarity. No other changes.

6.Q. No changes.

6.A. Change second sentence for clarity. No other changes.

7.Q. No changes

7.A. Change third sentence for clarity. No other changes.

8.Q. No changes.

8.A. Change in response to amendments made in 2014 to Code Section 12-36-920.

9.Q. No changes.

9.A. Change third sentence to improve punctuation. Change fourth and fifth sentences in response to amendments made in 2014 to Code Section 12-36-920.

From In-room Movies - 10.Q. No changes.

10.A. Delete third sentence as unnecessary. No other changes.

11.Q.-14.Q. No changes.

14.A. Change first sentence to insert missing word. No other changes.

From Linens – 16.Q. No changes.

16.A. First paragraph. Change first sentence for clarity. No other changes.

Second paragraph. Change for clarity.

Third paragraph. No changes.

Fourth paragraph. Change second and third sentences to improve punctuation. No other changes.

Fifth paragraph. Change second sentence to insert missing word. No other changes.

Sixth paragraph. No changes to first and second sentences. Change third through seventh sentences in response to amendments made in 2014 to Code Section 12-36-920.

From Seventh paragraph – 17.Q. No changes.

17.A. Amend third sentence and separate into two sentences for clarity. No other changes.

18.Q. No changes.

18.A. Amend second sentence for clarity. No other changes.

From Newspapers - 19.Q. No changes.

19.A. Delete second sentence as unnecessary.

20.Q. No changes.

20.A. Change in response to amendments made in 2014 to Code Section 12-36-920.

From Valet Parking - 22.Q. No changes.

22.A. Change in response to amendments made in 2014 to Code Section 12-36-920.

23.Q. No changes.

23.A. Delete second and third sentences as unnecessary.

From Meeting Rooms - 26.A. No changes.

Other Services. Change heading for specificity.

27.Q.-28.A. No changes.

Add new category (Safes) with three questions and answers (29.Q.-31.A.).

Add new category (Other Charges) with five questions and answers (32.Q.-36.A.).

29.Q. Renumber as 37.Q. No other changes.

29.A. Change Question #30 in third sentence to Question #38. No other changes.

30.Q. Renumber as 38.A. No other changes

30.A. First paragraph. No changes.

Second paragraph. Change Question #29 in first sentence to Question #37. No other changes.

Third paragraph. Revise second sentence. No other changes.

The Notice of Drafting was published in the *State Register* on July 22, 2016.

**Instructions:**

Amend SC Regulation 117-307.1, which provides examples of the application of the sales tax imposed on various charges by hotels, motels, and similar facilities to transient customers.

**Text:**

117-307.1. Examples of the Application of Tax to Various Charges Imposed by Hotels, Motels, and Other Facilities.

The following questions and answers are intended to provide guidance with respect to the provisions of Code Section 12-36-920.

**Telephone Charges**

1.Q. If a hotel charges $100.00 for a room, and that price includes the room and use of the phone for local calls, what tax rate applies to the $100.00?

A. The $100.00 charge would be subject to a tax rate of 7%. The use of the phone is a part of the services offered and provided with the room for the $100.00.

2.Q. If a hotel charges $80.00 per day for a room, and the customer is also charged $5.00 per day for the availability of the phone for local calls, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $80.00 room charge and the $5.00 telephone charge are taxed at 7%. The availability of a phone is a part of the services offered and provided with a room. The $5.00 is charged whether or not the guest uses the phone. Therefore, it is not an additional guest charge when the charge is based on a per day rate.

3.Q. If a hotel charges $80.00 per day for a room, and the customer is also charged $1.00 per local phone call, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $80.00 room charge is taxed at 7%. Each $1.00 phone charge is taxed at 6%. The availability of a phone is a part of the services offered and provided with a room; however, the use of the phone for a local call is over and above the services customarily provided with the room. Guests expect to pay a charge for each local call made from the room phone. Therefore, the $1.00 is an additional guest charge when the charge is based on a per call basis.

4.Q. If a hotel charges $80.00 for a room, and the customer is also charged $20.00 for various long distance calls made, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $80.00 room charge is taxed at 7%, while the remaining charges for the long distance calls are taxed at 6% as additional guest charges. The Department in Decision #92-11 held that the charges for long distance telephone calls were not otherwise taxed under Chapter 36 and were therefore taxable as additional guest charges.

**Maid Service**

5.Q. If a hotel charges $100.00 for a room, and that price includes maid service, what tax rate applies to the $100.00?

A. The $100.00 charge would be subject to a tax rate of 7%. The maid service is a service provided with the room and is, therefore, part of the room charge that is subject to the tax at 7%.

6.Q. If a hotel charges $80.00 for a room, and the customer also must pay a mandatory $20.00 charge for maid service, which may or may not be separately stated, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $80.00 room charge and the $20.00 maid service charge are taxed at 7%. The maid service is part of the services provided with the room. The fact that it may be separately charged does not make it a charge for a separate service. In this case the maid service is mandatory, and therefore, the actual charge for the room is $100.00 which is taxed at 7%.

7.Q. If a rental agency charges $800.00 per week for a condominium unit, and the customer also must pay a mandatory $50.00 charge for maid service at the end of the week, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $800.00 weekly unit charge and the $50.00 maid service charge are taxed at 7%. The maid service is part of the services provided with the unit. The fact that it may be separately charged does not make it a charge for a separate service. The maid service is mandatory, and therefore the actual charge for the unit is $850.00, which is taxed at 7%.

8.Q. If a rental agency charges $800.00 per week for a condominium unit, and the customer is required to leave the unit in a clean condition, what tax rate applies to each of the charges if the customer has the option to have the rental agency clean the unit at the end of the week for $50.00?

A. The $800.00 weekly unit charge is taxed at 7% and the $50.00 maid service charge is not subject to the sales tax. The $50.00 optional maid service is provided over and above the services provided with the unit, but it is not an additional guest charge under the statute. The $50.00 is therefore not subject to the tax.

9.Q. If a rental agency charges $800.00 per week for a condominium unit, plus a mandatory $50.00 charge for maid service at the end of the week, and the customer has the option to receive daily maid service for $20.00 a day, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $800.00 weekly unit charge and the $50.00 maid service charge are taxed at 7%. The maid service is part of the services provided with the unit. The maid service is mandatory, and therefore the actual charge for the unit is $850.00, which is taxed at 7%. The $20.00 optional maid service is provided over and above the services provided with the unit, but it is not an additional guest charge under the statute. The $20.00 is therefore not subject to the tax.

**In-room Movies**

10.Q. If a hotel charges $100.00 for a room, and that price includes the in-room movies at no extra charge, what tax rate applies to the $100.00?

A. The $100.00 charge would be subject to a tax rate of 7%. The availability of in-room movies is a part of the services offered and provided with the room for the $100.00.

11.Q. If a hotel charges $80.00 per day for a room, and the customer is also charged a mandatory fee of $5.00 per day for in-room movies (whether or not the guest watches any movies), what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $80.00 room charge and the mandatory $5.00 in-room movie charge are taxed at 7%. The availability of in-room movies is a part of the services offered and provided with a room. The $5.00 is charged whether or not the guest watches the movies. Therefore, it is not an additional guest charge when the charge is based on a per day rate and the guest is charged whether or not the movies are watched.

12.Q. If a hotel charges $80.00 per day for a room, and the customer is also charged $7.00 for each in-room movie he watched, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $80.00 room charge is taxed at 7%. The $7.00 movie charge is taxed at 6%. The availability of in-room movies is a part of the services offered and provided with a room; however, the charge for viewing a movie is over and above the customary charge for the room. Guests expect to pay a charge for each movie viewed. Therefore, the $7.00 is an additional guest charge when the charge is based on a separate charge for watching the movie. The tax on this additional guest charge is the liability of the hotel, regardless of whether or not service is being provided by a third party or the hotel itself.

**Meals**

13.Q. If a hotel charges $100.00 for a room, and that price includes a continental breakfast for the guest, what tax rate applies to the $100.00?

A. The $100.00 charge is taxed at 7%. Since the continental breakfast is provided with the room, it is not an additional guest charge. (The withdrawal of the food from the hotel's inventory is subject to the sales tax based on its fair market value. See Code Section 12-36-90 and Code Section 12-36-110.)

14.Q. If a hotel charges $100.00 for a room and also charges the guest a separately stated $20.00 "club" fee, what tax rate applies to each of the charges? (The "club" fee, for that extra $20.00, provides the guest access to a buffet meal that is not available to other guests.)

A. The Department, in Commission Decision #92-32, held that the separately stated charge of $20.00 was not part of the charge for the room but a retail sale of the meal to the guest. Therefore, the charges are taxed as follows: 7% tax applies to the $100.00 charge for the room, and 6% tax applies to the $20.00 charge for the meal. The meal is not taxed as an additional guest charge under Code Section 12-36-920(B) since it is otherwise taxed at 6% under Chapter 36 - Code Section 12-36-910 and Code Section 12-36-1110.

**Linens**

15.Q. If a rental agency charges $800.00 per week for a condominium unit, and the customer has the option to rent linens for $50.00 for the week, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $800.00 weekly unit charge is taxed at 7%. The rental of the linens is optional and not part of the services provided with the unit for the $800.00 charge. The $50.00 rental of the linens is not an additional guest charge since the rental charge for the linens is a sale of tangible personal property and is otherwise taxed at 6% under Chapter 36 - Code Section 12-36-910 and Code Section 12-36-1110.

**Golf and Other Tourist Packages**

16.Q. If a hotel has a "golf package" for $100.00 per night, and the customer is entitled to a room at the hotel, one round of golf at a golf course at no extra charge, and a meal at no extra charge, what tax rate applies?

A. Based on the Department’s longstanding administrative policy concerning tourist packages, the $100 charge would be subject to the 7% tax, except any portion forwarded to the golf course for payment of the green fee and any portion forwarded to the restaurant for payment of the meal. However, see the one exception in the "Note" in Example #1.

The following examples best explain this longstanding administrative policy:

Example #1: The hotel receives $100 from the guest for the golf package. The hotel pays the golf course $30 for the guest's green fee and pays the restaurant $5 for the guest's meal.

The hotel would be liable for the 7% tax on $65 ($100 - $35). The golf course would be liable for the 5% admissions tax on $30, and the restaurant would be liable for 6% sales tax on the sale of the meal. This calculation must be made on a guest-by-guest basis. In other words, the 7% tax due will be determined for each guest by multiplying 7% by the total charge for the package less the portion forwarded to the golf course for payment of the green fee and the portion forwarded to the restaurant for payment of the meal.

Note: If the hotel's guest is unable to play golf that day ("No-Show") (but still received the meal), and under terms of the golf package the guest will not be required to pay the "green fee portion" of the package, the hotel would be liable for the 7% tax on the amount it received from the guest less the amount paid by the hotel to the restaurant. For example, if the hotel determined that the "green fee portion" of the $100 package was $30 and required the guest to only pay $70 for that day, then the hotel would be liable for the 7% tax on $65 and the restaurant would be liable the 6% sales tax on the sale of the meal.

If the hotel's guest is unable to play golf that day ("No-Show") (but still received the meal), and under terms of the golf package the guest must still pay the hotel the full $100, the hotel would be liable for the 7% tax on the "accommodations portion" of the package. The golf course would notbe liable for the 5% admissions tax since the guest did not play golf and the golf course did not receive an admissions fee from the hotel. However, the hotel is not liable for the 6% tax on the other portion of the $100 paid by the guest since it does not represent an additional guest charge for the service of making the golf arrangements that were not used. This amount, however, must be equal to the green fee that the hotel would have had to pay to the golf course in order for the entire charge not to be subject to the 7% tax. In other words, if the hotel would have been required to pay $30 had the guest played golf, then the $30 that would have been, but was not, sent to the golf course is not subject to the sales tax. As such, the hotel would be liable for the 7% tax on $65 and the restaurant would be liable for the 6% sales tax on the sale of the meal. The $30 that would have been, but was not, sent to the golf course is not subject to either the sales tax or the admissions tax.

Example #2: The hotel receives $100 from the guest for the golf package. The hotel pays the restaurant $5 for the guest's meal. The hotel has an agreement with the golf course to pay the golf course $30 for the guest's green fee. When a guest does play golf, the hotel pays the $30; however, the hotel will receive money back from the golf course at a later date to help pay for the hotel's advertisements of its golf packages.

The hotel would be liable for the 7% tax on $65 ($100 - $35). The golf course would be liable for the 5% admissions tax on $30 and the restaurant would be liable for the 6% sales tax on the sale of the meal. The fact that the hotel will receive a portion of the money back in the future does not affect the taxation of the charges. It is merely an expense of the golf course that is paid to the hotel.

Notes: 1. To ensure the 7% tax is not circumvented by sending most of the package charge to the golf course and then later having a large portion of it returned to the hotel as "advertising," the amount paid to the golf course and returned to the hotel to pay for advertising must be reasonable and supported by the books and records of both taxpayers. Otherwise, the Department will assess taxes according to a reasonable breakdown of room charges, green fees, and meal charges.

2. Other tourist packages, such as tennis, honeymoon, and entertainment packages, handled in a similar manner would be taxed in the manner described above for golf packages.

**Bike Rentals**

17.Q. If a hotel charges $100.00 per night for a room, and the customer has the option to rent a bike to travel around the resort area for $10.00 a day, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $100.00 hotel charge is taxed at 7%. The rental of the bike is optional and not part of the services provided with the room for the $100.00 charge. The $10.00 is not an additional guest charge. However, the rental charge for the bike is a sale of tangible personal property and is otherwise taxed at 6% under Chapter 36.

18.Q. If a hotel charges $100.00 per night for a room, and the hotel allows the guest to reserve a bike at no extra charge to travel around the resort, what tax rate applies to the charge?

A. The $100.00 hotel charge is taxed at 7%. The availability of the bike is a part of the services provided with the room for the $100.00 charge.

**Newspapers**

19.Q. If a hotel charges $80.00 for a room, and the guest receives a newspaper that is delivered to the guest's door in the morning, what tax rate applies to the charge?

A. The $80.00 room charge is taxed at 7%.

20.Q. If a hotel charges $80.00 for a room, and the customer is charged $2.00 for a newspaper that is delivered at the guest's request, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $80.00 room charge is taxed at 7%. The newspaper is not an additional guest charge since it is not one of the services specifically listed in the statute as an “additional guest charge.” The newspaper that is provided for $2.00 is the sale of tangible personal property; however, sales of newspapers are exempt from the sales tax under Code Section 12-36-2120(8).

Note: Room service is generally considered a service provided to a guest that allows the guest to order food or drink that will be bought to the guest’s room. As such, newspapers brought to a guest’s room do not fall within the customary definition of room service. Therefore, the $2 charge to the guest for the newspaper is not an additional guest charge.

**Valet Parking**

21.Q. If a hotel charges $80.00 for a room, and there is no additional charge to the customer for valet parking, what tax rate applies to the charge?

A. The $80.00 room charge is taxed at 7%.

22.Q. If a hotel charges $80.00 for a room, and the customer is also charged $15.00 for valet parking, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $80.00 room charge is taxed at 7%, while the $15.00 charge for the valet parking is not an additional guest charge and is not taxed at 6%.

23.Q. If a person is not a guest at a hotel, but is attending an event at the hotel, is a $15.00 charge for valet parking subject to the tax as an additional guest charge?

A. The $15.00 charge for valet parking is not subject to the sales tax.

**Meeting Rooms**

24.Q. If a hotel charges $80.00 for a guest room, and there is no additional charge to the customer for the use of a meeting room, what tax rate applies to the charge?

A. The $80.00 guest room charge is taxed at 7%.

25.Q. If a hotel charges $80.00 for a guest room, and the customer is also charged $35.00 for the use of a meeting room, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $80.00 guest room charge is taxed at 7%, while the $35.00 charge for the meeting room, as an additional guest charge, is taxed at 6%.

26.Q. Is a $35.00 charge for the use of the meeting room by a person who is not a guest at the hotel, subject to the tax as an additional guest charge?

A. The $35.00 charge for the meeting room is not subject to the sales tax. It is not an additional guest charge since, in order to be taxable, the charge must be in addition to a room rental charge. This charge is not in addition to another charge.

Note: If the meeting room is being rented by an organization that is conducting a seminar, workshop, conference, or similar meeting at the hotel, the charge for the meeting room is taxed at 6% as an additional guest charge if the organization is also renting guest rooms at the hotel for officers or members of the organization, invited speakers, or others.

**Room Refreshment Bar or Refrigerator**

27.Q. If a hotel charges $100.00 for a room, and the room contains a refreshment bar so that the guest may avail himself of alcoholic drinks, non-alcoholic drinks, or snacks at no extra cost, what tax rate applies to the $100.00?

A. The $100.00 room charge is taxed at 7%.

28.Q. If a hotel charges $80.00 for a room, and the room contains a refreshment bar so that the guest may avail himself of alcoholic drinks, non-alcoholic drinks, or snacks at a set price per item, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $80.00 room charge is taxed at 7%, while the charges for each item the guest consumes from the refreshment bar is taxed at a rate of 6% as a sale of tangible personal property under Code Section 12-36-910 and Code Section 12-36-1110. These charges are not additional guest charges since they are "otherwise taxed" under Chapter 36.

**Safes**

29.Q. If a hotel charges $100.00 for a room, and that price includes the room and use of the safe in the room, what tax rate applies to the $100.00?

A. The $100.00 charge would be subject to a tax rate of 7%. The use of the safe is a part of the services offered and provided with the room for the $100.00.

30.Q. If a hotel charges $80.00 per day for a room, and the customer is also charged $5.00 per day for the availability of the safe in the room, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $80.00 room charge and the $5.00 charge for the safe are taxed at 7%. The availability of a safe is a part of the services offered and provided with a room. The $5.00 is charged whether or not the guest uses the safe.

31.Q. If a hotel charges $80.00 per day for a room, and the customer is also charged $5.00 if the guest uses the safe in the room, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $80.00 room charge is taxed at 7%. The $5.00 charge for actually using the safe is not subject to the tax. The availability of a safe is a part of the services offered and provided with the room; however, the use of the safe is over and above the services customarily provided with the room. In this case, guests expect to pay a charge for use of the safe. Therefore, the $5.00 charge is not a part of the room charge. It is a charge for a service that is not an additional guest charge under the statute, and therefore, not subject to the tax.

**Other Charges (Pet Fees, Smoking Fees, Damage Fees. and Late Check-Out Fees)**

32.Q. If a hotel charges $100.00 for a room and also charges an additional fee of $20 for having a pet in the room, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $100.00 charge and the $20 charge are taxed at 7%. The pet fee is neither a charge for a service nor an additional guest charge. It is a mandatory charge for having a pet in the room; therefore, the actual charge for the room is $120.

Note: Federal Regulation concerning Service Dogs - Under Federal Regulation 28 C.F.R. 36.302(c)(8), a place of accommodation (as defined in Federal Regulation 28 C.F.R. 36.104), such as an inn, hotel or motel, “shall not ask or require an individual with a disability to pay a surcharge, even if people accompanied by pets are required to pay fees, or to comply with other requirements generally not applicable to people without pets.”

33.Q. If a hotel charges $100.00 for a room and also charges an additional fee of $20 for a room in which the guest is allowed to smoke cigarettes, cigars and other smoking tobacco, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $100.00 charge and the $20 charge are taxed at 7%. The smoking room fee is neither a charge for a service nor an additional guest charge. It is a mandatory charge for a smoking room; therefore, the actual charge for the room is $120.

34.Q. If a hotel charges $100.00 for a room and also charges an additional fee of $35 if a guest smokes cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco in a non-smoking room, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $100.00 charge and the $35 charge are taxed at 7%. The fee for smoking in a non-smoking room is neither a charge for a service nor an additional guest charge. It is a mandatory charge for smoking in a non-smoking room; therefore, the actual charge for the room is $135.

35.Q. If a hotel charges $100.00 for a room and also charges an additional fee of $35 if a guest damages the room, what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $100.00 charge and the $35 charge are taxed at 7%. The damage fee is neither a charge for a service nor an additional guest charge. It is a mandatory charge for causing damage to the room; therefore, the actual charge for the room is $135.

36.Q. If a hotel charges $100.00 for a room and also charges an additional fee of $15 if a guest checks out late (past the specified time for check-out), what tax rate applies to each of the charges?

A. The $100.00 charge and the $15 charge are taxed at 7%. The late check-out is neither a charge for a service nor an additional guest charge. It is a mandatory charge for checking out past the specified time for check-out; therefore, the actual charge for the room is $115.

**Cancellations**

37.Q. If a person reserves and pays for sleeping accommodations at a hotel, but does not cancel the reservation or does not cancel the reservation by the prescribed time set by the hotel, is the charge for the accommodations retained by the hotel subject to the tax even though he will not use the sleeping accommodations?

A. While the sleeping accommodations were not used, the person had the right to use such sleeping accommodations. Therefore, the sleeping accommodations were "furnished" and the charge by the hotel for such sleeping accommodations is subject to the tax. See Question #38 for information concerning when accommodations are canceled but an administrative fee or deposit is charged or retained.

38.Q. If a person makes reservations with a hotel for sleeping accommodations, but the reservations are canceled by such person or by the hotel, is an administrative fee or deposit charged or retained by the hotel as a result of the cancellation subject to the tax?

A. An administrative fee or deposit retained or charged by a hotel when reservations for sleeping accommodations are canceled is not subject to the sales tax.

Note: See Question #37 for information concerning when accommodations are canceled or otherwise not used but a charge for the sleeping accommodations is made or retained by the hotel. See also Question #16, Example #1, Note, for the taxation of a tourist package when sleeping accommodations are furnished but the guest does not use a portion of the package (i.e. the guest pays for a golf package but does not play golf).

Note: This regulation references tax rates of 7% for the sales tax on accommodations, 6% for the sales tax on additional guest charges, and 6% for the sales tax on sales or rentals of tangible personal property. However, some counties and municipalities impose several types of local option sales and use taxes as well as other local taxes imposed upon the furnishing of accommodations and the sale of prepared meals. Some of these taxes are collected by the Department of Revenue on behalf of the county imposing the tax, and others are collected by the county itself.

**Fiscal Impact Statement:**

There will be no impact on state or local political subdivisions expenditures in complying with this proposed legislation.

**Statement of Rationale:**

The purpose of this proposal is to amend the examples in SC Regulation 117-307.1 to exempt charges for (1) amenities, (2) entertainment, (3) special items in promotional tourist packages, and (4) other guest services from additional guest charges subject to sales tax in a manner consistent with changes made to Code Section 12-36-920 in 2014.