

ADMINISTRATION

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 65 - 2024

INTRODUCED BY

JULY 9, 2024

AN ORDINANCE

Authorizing the Lehigh County Board of Elections to place the following question on the November 5, 2024 ballot for the Allentown electorate that would amend the Home Rule Charter, Section 807, Revenue, to delete the Deed Transfer Tax from Section 807 (B).

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: “Shall Section 807(B), Revenue, of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Allentown be amended to allow City Council, by Ordinance, to remove the Deed Transfer Tax?” The Section would read as follows:

SECTION 807 REVENUE

B. Council shall not raise the rates of ~~the Deed Transfer~~, Earned Income, Business Privilege, Occupational Privilege, Amusement Devices and Resident Taxes above their respective 1996 levels.

SECTION TWO: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

SECTION THREE: That this Ordinance take effect ten (10) days after final passage.

Legislative Template

What department or bureau is this bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?

Finance Department

Summary and facts of the bill

Amend Section 807(B) to remove Deed Transfer Tax.

The amended section will read as “ Council shall not raise the rates of ~~the Deed Transfer~~, Earned Income, Business Privilege, Emergency Municipal Services Tax beyond \$52, Amusement Devices and Resident Taxes above their respective 1996 levels.

Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:

What does the bill do? What are the specific goals or tasks the bill seeks to accomplish?

Allows Council to remove the Deed Transfer Tax from Section 807(B).

What are the benefits of doing this?

This Ordinance empowers Council the flexibility to examine more equitable revenue sources. The revenue limitation measures in the Home Rule Charter places too much burden on the City residents to generate revenue from the City Real Estate Tax, Earned Income Tax, Business Privilege Tax, and Emergency Municipal Services Tax.

How does this bill relate to the City’s vision/mission/priorities?

The City relies on this source of revenue to provide additional funds to support public services, infrastructure projects, and other community needs. The change in economic conditions is requiring this modification. This will assist the City to continue to provide funding for programs and services that taxpayers are accustomed to.

Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:

Cost (initial and ongoing)

No cost to the City.

Benefits (initial and ongoing)

This modification will empower Council the flexibility to remove Deed Transfer Tax from the Home Rule Charter Section 807(B).

Priority status – Are there any deadlines to be aware of?

As soon as possible.

Why should Council unanimously support this bill?

This Ordinance empowers Council the flexibility to examine more equitable revenue sources. The revenue limitation measures in the Home Rule Charter places too much burden on the City taxpayers to generate revenue from the City Real Estate Tax, Earned Income Tax, Business Privilege Tax, and Emergency Municipal Services Tax. The City relies on this source of revenue to provide additional funds to support public services, infrastructure projects, and for other community needs. This will assist the City to continue to provide funding for programs and services that taxpayers are accustomed to as well as align with the City's initiatives for the environmental sustainability, and economic development.