

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE BILL 698**

Short Title: Monroe Prepared Food Tax. (Local)

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Sponsors: Representative Gibson.

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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March 27, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF MONROE TO LEVY A PREPARED  
2 FOOD TAX.  
3

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.(a)** Without Referendum. – If the question of whether to levy a  
6 prepared food tax has not been defeated within five years in a referendum held under  
7 subsection (b) of this section, the Monroe City Council may, by ordinance after not less  
8 than 10 days' public notice and a public hearing held pursuant thereto, levy a prepared  
9 food tax of up to one percent (1%) of the sales price of prepared food sold within the  
10 City of Monroe at retail for consumption on or off the premises by a retailer subject to  
11 sales tax under G.S. 105-164.4(a)(1). This tax is in addition to State and local sales tax.

12 **SECTION 1.(b)** After Referendum. – If a majority of those voting in a  
13 referendum held pursuant to this subsection vote for the levy of the tax, the Monroe City  
14 Council may, by ordinance after not less than 10 days' public notice and a public  
15 hearing held pursuant thereto, levy a prepared food tax of up to one percent (1%) of the  
16 sales price of prepared food sold within the City of Monroe at retail for consumption on  
17 or off the premises by a retailer subject to sales tax under G.S. 105-164.4(a)(1). This tax  
18 is in addition to State and local sales tax.

19 The Monroe City Council may direct the county board of elections to submit  
20 to the qualified voters of the city the question of whether to levy a local prepared food  
21 tax of one percent (1%) as provided in this section.

22 The election must be held on a date jointly agreed upon by the board of  
23 elections and the city council, and must be conducted under the laws then governing  
24 elections in the State. Ballots, voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with  
25 Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. The question to be used in the voting systems and  
26 ballots shall be:

" [ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST

27  
28 One percent (1%) local prepared meals tax, in addition to the current local  
29 sales and use taxes."

1           **SECTION 1.(c)** Definitions; Sales and Use Tax Statutes. – The definitions  
2 in G.S. 105-164.3 apply to this section to the extent they are not inconsistent with the  
3 provisions of this section. The provisions of Article 5 and Article 9 of Chapter 105 of  
4 the General Statutes apply to this section to the extent they are not inconsistent with the  
5 provisions of this section.

6           **SECTION 1.(d)** Exemptions. – The prepared food tax does not apply to the  
7 following sales of prepared food:

- 8           (1) Prepared food served to residents in boarding houses and sold together  
9           on a periodic basis with rental of a sleeping room or lodging.
- 10           (2) Retail sales exempt from taxation under G.S. 105-164.13.
- 11           (3) Retail sales through or by means of vending machines.
- 12           (4) Prepared food served by a retailer subject to the local occupancy tax if  
13           the charge for the meals or prepared food or drink is included in a  
14           single, nonitemized sales price together with the charge for rental of a  
15           room, lodging, or accommodation furnished by the retailer.
- 16           (5) Prepared food furnished without charge by an employer to an  
17           employee.
- 18           (6) Retail sales by grocers or by grocery sections of supermarkets or other  
19           diversified retail establishments, other than sales of prepared food in  
20           the delicatessen or similar department of the grocer or grocery section.
- 21           (7) Prepared food served on a federal military reservation.

22           **SECTION 1.(e)** Collection. – Every retailer subject to the tax levied under  
23 this section shall, on and after the effective date of the levy of the tax, collect the tax.  
24 This tax shall be collected as part of the charge for furnishing prepared food. The tax  
25 shall be stated separately on the sale document and shall be paid by the purchaser to the  
26 retailer as trustee for and on account of the city. The tax shall be added to the sales  
27 price and shall be passed on to the purchaser instead of being borne by the retailer. The  
28 city shall design, print, and furnish to all appropriate businesses and persons in the city  
29 the necessary forms for filing returns and instructions to ensure the full collection of the  
30 tax.

31           **SECTION 1.(f)** Administration. – The city shall administer a tax levied  
32 under this section. A tax levied under this section is due and payable to the city's  
33 director of finance and administration in monthly installments on or before the 25th day  
34 of the month following the month in which the tax accrues. Every retailer liable for the  
35 tax shall, on or before the 25th day of each month, prepare and render a return on a form  
36 prescribed by the city. The return shall show the total gross receipts derived in the  
37 preceding month from sales to which the tax applies.

38           A return filed with the city's director of finance and administration under this  
39 section is not a public record and may not be disclosed except in accordance with G.S.  
40 160A-208.1.

41           **SECTION 1.(g)** Refunds. – The city shall refund to a nonprofit or  
42 governmental entity the prepared food tax paid by the entity on eligible purchases of  
43 prepared food. A nonprofit or governmental entity's purchase of prepared food is  
44 eligible for a refund under this subsection if the entity is entitled to a refund under G.S.

1 105-164.14(b) or (c) of local sales and use tax paid on the purchase. The time  
2 limitations, application requirements, penalties, and restrictions provided in G.S.  
3 105-164.14(b) and (d) apply to refunds to nonprofit entities; the time limitations,  
4 application requirements, penalties, and restrictions provided in G.S. 105-164.14(c), (d),  
5 and (e) apply to refunds to governmental entities. When an entity applies for a refund  
6 of the prepared food tax paid by it on purchases, it must attach to its application a copy  
7 of the application submitted to the Department of Revenue under G.S. 105-164.14 for a  
8 refund of the sales and use tax on the same purchases. An applicant for a refund under  
9 this subsection must provide any information required by the city to substantiate the  
10 claim.

11 **SECTION 1.(h)** Penalties. – The uniform meals tax penalty provisions of  
12 G.S. 160A-214.1 apply to a tax levied under this section.

13 **SECTION 1.(i)** Use of Proceeds. – The City of Monroe must use the  
14 proceeds of a tax levied under this section for the construction, operation, and  
15 maintenance of a civic center.

16 **SECTION 1.(j)** Effective Date of Levy. – A tax levied under this section  
17 shall become effective on the date specified in the ordinance levying the tax. The date  
18 must be the first day of a calendar month and may not be before the first day of the  
19 fourth month after the date the ordinance is adopted.

20 **SECTION 1.(k)** Repeal. – A tax levied under this section may be repealed  
21 by an ordinance adopted by the Monroe City Council. Any repeal shall become  
22 effective on the first day of a month and may not become effective until the end of the  
23 fiscal year in which the repeal ordinance is adopted. Repeal of a tax levied under this  
24 section does not affect a liability for a tax that attached before the effective date of the  
25 repeal, nor does it affect a right to a refund of a tax that accrued before the effective date  
26 of the repeal.

27 **SECTION 1.(l)** Sunset. – A tax levied under this act expires 15 years after  
28 the effective date of its levy. The city's authorization to levy a tax under this act expires  
29 15 years after the effective date of the first tax the city levies under this act, even if the  
30 tax has not remained in effect for the entire 15-year period. The expiration of a tax  
31 pursuant to this subsection does not affect the rights or liabilities of the city, a taxpayer,  
32 or another person arising under the expired tax; nor does it affect the right to any refund  
33 or credit of a tax that would otherwise have been available under the expired tax before  
34 its expiration.

35 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.