

Date: February 28, 2023

To: Mayors, Managers, Administrators, Clerks and
Local Revenue Service Contacts

From: Caitlin Cothran, Manager for Local Revenue Services

Re: Ordinance, Agreement, and Supplement for Local Revenue Service Programs
PROMPT ACTION REQUIRED

For many years, the Municipal Association has offered collection programs for certain business license taxes. These programs include the Insurance Tax Collection Program, the Brokers Tax Collection Program, and the Telecommunication Tax Program. The Municipal Association has collectively rebranded these programs as Local Revenue Services and has renamed the three business license programs as the Insurance Tax Program (ITP), the Brokers Tax Program (BTP), and the Telecommunication Tax Program (TTP).

In addition, by Act 176 of 2020,¹ the General Assembly standardized business licensing in the State of South Carolina. Following the adoption of this Act, the Municipal Association provided a revised model business license ordinance. Every municipality in the State has adopted a revised business license ordinance based on Act 176 and the new model ordinance.

As a result of the Local Revenue Services rebranding and the adoption of new local business license ordinances under Act 176, the Association is required to update the ordinances and agreement by which municipalities may participate in Local Revenue Services. Please note as follows:

- There are THREE attachments to this memo: (1) an ordinance to participate in Local Revenue Services, (2) an intergovernmental agreement for the programs, and (3) a program participant supplement by which a municipality elects which programs to join.
- In order to continue to participate in Local Revenue Services, **your municipality must (1) enact the attached ordinance and, (2) once the ordinance is enacted, sign the attached agreement and supplement.**
- The ordinance must be **completed where highlighted and then enacted exactly as written.**
- The agreement must be **signed exactly as written.**
- The supplement must be **completed where highlighted and then signed exactly as written.**
- The Setoff Debt Program is not affected by the attached documents, which relate only to ITP, BTP, and TTP.
- The Association must have a certified copy of your amended ordinance, together with the original signed agreement and supplement, by **May 26, 2023**. We will send you a copy of the final agreement with the Municipal Association's signature for your file. If you require an original signed agreement for your files, provide two signed agreements to the Municipal Association.

¹ The Business License Standardization Act, found at S.C. Code Sec. 6-1-400 to -420.

The new program documents will not substantially change the operation of the Local Revenue Services programs from your perspective. The Municipal Association will continue to administer and collect business license taxes within ITP, BTP, and TTP. The rates for the Municipal Association's services will remain exactly the same as they are now. Finally, distributions of collected amounts will be made in the same manner and at approximately the same times as they are now.

The substantial changes to the Local Revenue Services programs are as follows:

- The new agreement is an intergovernmental agreement among all of the participating governments, rather than a series of standalone agreements.
- Local Revenue Services will act in its own name as a division of the Municipal Association and will be governed by a committee of the Municipal Association's Board of Directors.
- The terms on which the Municipal Association is delegated the authority to resolve litigation on behalf of its members have been clarified.
- An appeals process, as required by and consistent with Act 176, has been formally adopted.

If you have questions about the attached documents, please contact Caitlin Cothran at (803) 354-4786 or ccothran@amsc.sc.

If your municipal attorney has questions about the attached documents, please direct him or her to contact Eric Shytle, General Counsel of the Municipal Association, at (803) 933-1214 or eshytle@masc.sc.