

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH BOSTON
TO ADD A NEW SECTION
CHAPTER 26; BUSINESSES; ARTICLE V; TOURISM ZONES**

SECTION I: It is the intent of the South Boston Town Council to amend the Code of the Town of South Boston, Chapter 26 Businesses.

SECTION II: The purpose of the amendment is add language to establish tourism zones for the purpose of granting incentives and providing regulatory flexibility to qualified businesses.

SECTION III: For purposes of this ordinance any language in this ordinance which is shown with a line preceding through the middle of letters or punctuation marks or blank spaces, otherwise known as a strikeout and appearing similar to this "~~Town of South Boston~~" shall be considered as having been deleted from the Code by this ordinance.

SECTION IV: For purposes of this ordinance any language in this ordinance that is shown in italics and appearing similar to this "*Town of South Boston*" shall be considered as having been added to the Code by this ordinance.

SECTION V: Chapter 26 Businesses is hereby amended as follows:

CHAPTER 26 BUSINESSES; ARTICLE V. TOURISM ZONES

Sec. 26-145 - Statement of purpose.

The Virginia Code authorizes Virginia localities to establish, by ordinance, one or more tourism zones for the purpose of granting incentives and providing regulatory flexibility to qualified businesses. This tourism zone is a specific geographic area(s) created in accordance the Code of Virginia §58.1-3851.

The purpose the tourism zone is to promote the Town of South Boston's tourism industry by providing incentives to eligible businesses within the town's designated tourism zone that will attract visitors, create new employment opportunities and/or promote education opportunities while increasing travel-related revenue in the South Boston area.

In addition, this chapter is a required step which may allow private businesses to access the state financing program available to businesses in a tourism zone.

Sec.26-146 - Boundaries of the Town of South Boston tourism zone.

The boundaries of South Boston's tourism zone will include all areas within the town's enterprise zone.

Sec.26-147 - Incentives.

Qualifying businesses are eligible for the following incentives (the incentives listed below mirror the incentives offered under the town's enterprise zone):

- (1) A five (5) year real estate tax reinvestment credit on one hundred (100) percent of value of improvements resulting from renovation work (within the Town of South Boston).*
- (2) Accelerated development review process (within the Town of South Boston).*
- (3) Town will reimburse property owner up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for architectural design fees for downtown façade improvements in the historic district upon completion of construction work and approval by town.*

Sec. 26-137 - Qualifications for incentives.

For a business to qualify for local tourism zone incentives, the business must be located within the boundaries of the tourism zone and meet the following criteria:

- (1) An existing business that makes a minimum fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) capital improvements.*
- (2) A new business that makes a minimum two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) capital improvement.*

Sec. 26-138 - Application.

The qualified applicant will apply for incentives, by letter, on a reimbursement basis after construction completion and a certificate of occupancy has been issued.

SECTION VI:

This Ordinance shall become effective at midnight on June 13, 2016.

SECTION VII:

If any language, part, or section of this Ordinance is legally declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then only that language, part, or section of this Ordinance shall be invalid and all other language, parts, and sections shall remain in full force and effect.

Mayor Edward Owens

Attest: _____
Jane P. Jones, Town Clerk