

Section 11

Utility License Taxes, 1999

Localities in Virginia may impose a local license tax on public service corporations. As authorized by §58.1-3731 of the Code, localities may levy a license tax on a company at a rate not to exceed one-half of 1 percent of the gross receipts of such company accruing from sales to the ultimate consumer in the locality. However, any locality which had, in effect before January 1, 1972, a tax rate exceeding the current statutory ceiling may continue to tax at the previous level but may not raise the rate (See *Virginia, Acts of Assembly, 1972, c. 858*). For telephone companies, long-distance calls are not taxable under this provision.

County utility license taxes do not apply within the limits of an in-

corporated town if the town also imposes the tax. However, if the population of the county is between 14,650 and 14,700, the town's governing body may elect to have the county tax apply within the town limits.

Table 11.1 presents the license tax rates on electric, telephone, gas, and water utilities for the 39 cities and the 73 counties and 111 towns that reported imposing a utility license tax during the 1999 tax year. Also, the taxes apply only to services provided by the utility company within the locality. (See Section 12 of this report for local taxation of cable television systems)

Table 11.1
Utility License Taxes, 1999

Locality	Tax Levy on Gross Receipts (%)			
	Electricity	Telephone	Gas	Water
Cities	Note: All cities responded to the survey. Those that answered "not applicable" for all items in this table are excluded.			
Alexandria	0.5	1.03	0.5	0.5
Bristol	N/A	0.5	N/A	N/A
Buena Vista	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Charlottesville	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Chesapeake	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Clifton Forge	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Colonial Heights	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Covington	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Danville	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Emporia	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Fairfax	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Falls Church	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Franklin	0.5 ^a	0.5	N/A	N/A
Fredericksburg	0.5	0.5% or \$500, whichever is greater	0.5	N/A
Galax	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Hampton	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Harrisonburg	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Hopewell	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Lexington	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Lynchburg	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Manassas	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Manassas Park	Pole charge in lieu of tax	0.5	0.5	N/A
Martinsville	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Newport News	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Norfolk	0.5	\$1,100 + \$1.65 per pole & \$1.10/100 ft. of conduit	0.5	N/A
Norton	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Petersburg	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Poquoson	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Portsmouth	0.5	3% plus \$1.00/100 ft. conduit & \$1.50 per pole	0.5	
Radford	0.5	\$250.75 (flat fee)	0.5	N/A

N/A Not applicable.

^a Tax applies only to annexed areas. Electric utility in other areas of city is municipally owned.

Table 11.1 (continued)

Locality	Tax Levy on Gross Receipts (%)			
	Electricity	Telephone	Gas	Water
Cities (continued)				
Richmond	0.5	3.0	N/A	N/A
Roanoke	0.5	2.4	0.4	N/A
Salem	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Staunton	0.5	1.0	0.5	N/A
Suffolk	0.5	5.0	0.5	N/A
Virginia Beach	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Waynesboro	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Williamsburg	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Winchester	0.5	\$2,400 (flat fee)	0.5	N/A
Counties				
Note: All counties responded to the survey. Those that answered "not applicable" for all items in this table are excluded.				
Accomack	0.5	0.5	N/A	0.5
Albemarle	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Alleghany	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Amelia	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Amherst	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Arlington	0.5	2.0	0.5	0.5
Augusta	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Bedford	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Bland	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Botetourt	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Brunswick	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Buchanan	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Buckingham	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Caroline	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Carroll	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Charles City	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Chesterfield	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Clarke	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Craig	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Cumberland	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Dinwiddie	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Fairfax	0.24	0.24	0.24	N/A
Fauquier	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Fluvanna	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Franklin	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A

N/A Not applicable.

Table 11.1 (continued)

Locality	Tax Levy on Gross Receipts (%)			
	Electricity	Telephone	Gas	Water
Counties (continued)				
Frederick	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Giles	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Gloucester	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
	(min. \$30)	(min. \$30)	(min. \$30)	(min. \$30)
Goochland	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Greensville	0.5	0.5	0.5	\$2.00 max.
Halifax	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Hanover	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Henrico	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
	(excluding initial \$100,000)	(excluding initial \$100,000)		
Henry	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Isle of Wight	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
James City	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
King and Queen	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
King George	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
King William	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Loudoun	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Louisa	0.5	N/A	0.5	N/A
Lunenburg	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Madison	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Mathews	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Montgomery	0.5	0.5	0.5	None
Nelson	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
New Kent	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Northampton	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Orange	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Page	0.5	0.5	N/A	0.5
Patrick	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Pittsylvania	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Prince Edward	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Prince George	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Prince William	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29
Pulaski	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Rappahannock	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Roanoke	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Rockbridge	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Rockingham	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A

N/A Not applicable.

k = \$1,000

Table 11.1 (continued)

Locality	Tax Levy on Gross Receipts (%)			
	Electricity	Telephone	Gas	Water
Counties (continued)				
Shenandoah	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Smyth	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Southampton	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Spotsylvania	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Stafford	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Surry	0.33	0.33	0.33	N/A
Sussex	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Tazewell	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Warren	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Washington	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Wise	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Wythe	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
York	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Towns	Note: Towns that answered “not applicable” for all items in this table are excluded. For a listing of town respondents and non-respondents, see Appendix B.			
Abingdon	0.5	2.0	0.5	N/A
Altavista ^b	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Amherst	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Appomattox	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Ashland	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Berryville	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Big Stone Gap	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Blacksburg	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Blackstone	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Bluefield	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Bowling Green	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Boydton	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Bridgewater	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Broadway	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Brodnax	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Brookneal	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Buchanan	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Cedar Bluff	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Charlotte Court House	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Chase City	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A

^{N/A} Not applicable.

^b The ordinance states that for these types of companies, “1/2 of 1 percent of gross receipts accruing to ultimate consumer in excess of \$6,000, excluding telephone companies, all charges for long distance calls.”

Table 11.1 (continued)

Locality	Tax Levy on Gross Receipts (%)			
	Electricity	Telephone	Gas	Water
Towns (continued)				
Chatham	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Chilhowie	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Chincoteague	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Christiansburg	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Clarksville	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Clintwood	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Coeburn	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Colonial Beach	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Courtland	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Crewe	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Culpeper	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Damascus	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Dayton	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Dillwyn	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Dublin	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Dumfries	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Edinburg	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Exmore	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Farmville	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Fries	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Front Royal	0.4	0.5	0.4	N/A
Gate City	0.5	2.0	Flat fee of \$35	N/A
Glasgow	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Gordonsville	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Goshen	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Gretna	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Grottoes	0.5	5.0	N/A	N/A
Herndon	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Hillsville	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Honaker	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Hurt	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Iron Gate	0.15	0.15	0.15	
Jarratt	0.5	0.05	N/A	N/A
Jonesville	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Keysville	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A

N/A Not applicable.

... No response provided.

Table 11.1 (continued)

Locality	Tax Levy on Gross Receipts (%)			
	Electricity	Telephone	Gas	Water
Towns (continued)				
Kilmarnock	0.5	2.0	N/A	N/A
Lacrosse	0.5	0.5
Lawrenceville	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Lebanon	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Leesburg	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Louisa	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Luray	0.5	0.5
Marion	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
McKenney	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Middleburg	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Middletown	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Mineral	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Montross	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Mount Jackson	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
New Market	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Occoquan	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Onancock	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Orange	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Pamplin	0.2	0.2	N/A	N/A
Pearisburg	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Pennington Gap	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Pocahontas	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Port Royal	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Pound	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pulaski	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Purcellville	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Quantico	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Rocky Mount	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Rural Retreat	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Saint Paul	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Scottsville	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Shenandoah	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Smithfield	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
South Boston	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
South Hill	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A

... No response provided.

N/A Not applicable.

Table 11.1 (continued)

Locality	Tax Levy on Gross Receipts (%)			
	Electricity	Telephone	Gas	Water
Towns (continued)				
Stanley	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Stephens City	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Strasburg	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Stuart	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Tappahannock	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Tazewell	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Timberville	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Urbanna	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Victoria	0.5	0.5	...	N/A
Vienna	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Vinton	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Warrenton	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Warsaw	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Washington	0.46	0.46	N/A	N/A
Waverly	0.22	0.22	0.22	...
Weber City	0.5	\$10 plus 0.05% for > \$2,000	N/A	N/A
West Point	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Windsor	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Wise	0.5	0.5	N/A	N/A
Woodstock	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
Wytheville	0.5	0.5	0.5	N/A
...	No response provided.			
N/A	Not applicable.			