COMPARED: Short-Term Rental Laws Across the Country

City	Summary	Take Effect	Fine	STR License Fee	Additional Cost	
New York	 Can't rent out entire apartment (hosts must be present) Can't advertise an apartment Up to 2 paying guests 	May 2011	\$1,000 - \$7,500 (illegal advertising of apartments)	N/A	 Sales and use tax Hotel room occupancy tax 	
San Francisco	 Must register as a business and as a short-term rental Hosts must be permanent residents Up to 90 nights a year without hosts No income-restricted affordable housing 	Feb. 2015	≥ \$484 (per day)	\$250	 Transient occupancy tax Business personal property tax 	
Los Angeles	 Must obtain licenses Must be primary residence Up to 120 days a year 	July 2019	≥ \$500 (per day)	\$89	Transient occupancy tax	
Washington DC	 Must obtain license, additional "vacation rental" endorsement for renting out an entire unit Must be primary residence Up to 90 nights a year without hosts 	Oct 2019	\$500 - \$6,000 (per violation)	TBD	Transient lodging tax	
Chicago	 Short-term rental platforms must obtain license Hosts with 1 home-share unit register through the rental platform Hosts with ≥ 1 home-share unit must obtain license from city of Chicago Vacation rental must obtain license 	March 2017 (host registration)	\$1,500 - \$3,000 (per day)	\$0 - \$250	Hotel accommodation tax	
Boston	Must obtain license Must be primary residence or an secondary unit at their primary residence No income-restricted units	Jan. 2019	\$100 - \$300 (per day)	\$25 - \$200	Same tax as hotel	
Seattle	 Short-term rental platforms must obtain license Hosts must register as a business and as a short-term rental Up to 2 units If operate 2 units, one must be primary residence 	Sep. 2019	\$500 - \$1,000 (per violation)	\$75	 Retail sales tax Lodging tax Business and occupation tax 	

Data source: Municipal Codes



Quick links to short-term rental laws in each city: