The excise tax is levied on each instrument by which any interest in real property is conveyed to another person. The tax rate is $1 on each $500 or fractional part of the consideration or value of the interest conveyed. The tax is paid by the transferor to the register of deeds of the county in which the real estate is located prior to recording the instrument of conveyance. Fifty percent (50%) of the proceeds are contributed to the county's general fund; of the remaining 50%, the county may retain up to 2% to cover administrative costs, remitting the residual to the State. The State is then statutorily required to deposit 75% of the proceeds to the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and 25% to the Natural Heritage Trust Fund.

For fiscal years 1992-93 through 1995-96, fifty percent (50%) of the proceeds were to be remitted to the State. After deduction of administrative costs, 15% of the proceeds were to be deposited into the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund with the remainder to be deposited into the General Fund. Effective July 1, 1996, the statute was rewritten establishing the distribution of proceeds currently in practice.

For fiscal year 2003-04, G.S. 105-228.30(b) was amended to accelerate the frequency with which the counties are required to remit the State's share of the deed excise tax to the Department of Revenue from a quarterly to a monthly basis, thereby shifting the receipts of some tax revenue from the 2004-05 fiscal year into the end of the 2003-04 fiscal year.

[Effective for taxes collected on or after July 1, 2003.]