

By Representatives Thrasher, Lippman, Bitner, Burroughs, Heyman, Meek, Garcia, Fasano, Morse, Tobin, Putnam, Cosgrove, Roberts-Burke, Bloom, Barreiro, Merchant, Gay, Valdes, Feeney, Flanagan, King, Edwards, Chestnut, Mackenzie, Logan, Mackey, Ogles, Constantine, Harrington and Geller

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to professional sports  
3           franchises; amending s. 288.1162, F.S.;  
4           revising the definition of the term "new  
5           professional sports franchise"; authorizing  
6           certain applicants to be certified more than  
7           once under certain circumstances; increasing  
8           the number of facilities which may be  
9           certified; conforming dates to comply with the  
10          act; providing an effective date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
14           Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3), paragraphs  
15           (c) and (h) of subsection (4), and subsection (8) of section  
16           288.1162, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, are amended to  
17           read:

18           288.1162 Professional sports franchises; spring  
19           training franchises; duties.--

20           (3) As used in this section:

21           (a) "New professional sports franchise" means a  
22           professional sports franchise that is not based in this state  
23           prior to August 16, 1965 ~~April 1, 1987~~.

24           (4) Prior to certifying an applicant as a "facility  
25           for a new professional sports franchise" or a "facility for a  
26           retained professional sports franchise," the Office of  
27           Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development must determine that:

28           (c) The applicant has a verified copy of the approval  
29           from the governing authority of the league in which the new  
30           professional sports franchise exists authorizing the location  
31           of the professional sports franchise in this state after

1 August 16, 1965 ~~April 1, 1987~~, or in the case of a retained  
2 professional sports franchise, verified evidence that it has  
3 had a league-authorized location in this state on or before  
4 December 31, 1976. The term "league" means the National League  
5 or the American League of Major League Baseball, the National  
6 Basketball Association, the National Football League, or the  
7 National Hockey League.

8 (h) No applicant previously certified under any  
9 provision of this section who has received funding under such  
10 certification shall be eligible for an additional  
11 certification, unless it is for a different sports franchise  
12 as recognized under paragraph (c).

13 (8) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
14 Development shall notify the Department of Revenue of any  
15 facility certified as a facility for a new professional sports  
16 franchise or a facility for a retained professional sports  
17 franchise or as a new spring training franchise facility. The  
18 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development may certify  
19 no more than nine ~~eight~~ facilities as facilities for a new  
20 professional sports franchise, as facilities for a retained  
21 professional sports franchise, or as new spring training  
22 franchise facilities, including in such total any facilities  
23 certified by the Department of Commerce before July 1, 1998  
24 ~~1996. The office may make no more than one certification for~~  
25 ~~any facility.~~

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
27 law.

28  
29  
30  
31

505-145-97

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

\*\*\*\*\*

HOUSE SUMMARY

Revises a provision of law governing professional sports franchises to redefine the term "new professional sports franchise" to mean a professional sports franchise that is not based in this state prior to August 16, 1965, to conform other provisions of the law to that date, to provide that no applicant for funding under the law who has received funding shall be eligible for additional certification and funding unless it is for a different sports franchise, to increase to 9 the number of sports facilities which may be certified under the law, and to revise dates to conform to the act.