

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; providing  
8           requirements for certain applicants; conforming  
9           dates to comply with the act; providing that an  
10          applicant applying for certification for more  
11          than one franchise, after a certain date, is  
12          required to have a contract with the Department  
13          of Labor and Employment Security for the hiring  
14          of WAGES participants; providing contract  
15          requirements; providing for an annual report to  
16          the Governor and specified legislative leaders  
17          on the extent of WAGES hiring by the applicant;  
18          providing the applicant must agree to expend  
19          certain funds for job training facility on the  
20          premises of the applicant's facility; providing  
21          the applicant must establish a scholarship  
22          endowment fund; providing criteria for awards;  
23          limiting eligibility for awards; providing an  
24          effective date.

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26   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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28           Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3), paragraphs  
29           (c), (e), and (h) of subsection (4), and subsection (8) of  
30           section 288.1162, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, are  
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1 amended, and subsection (11) is added to said section, to  
2 read:

3           288.1162 Professional sports franchises; spring  
4 training franchises; duties.--

5           (3) As used in this section:

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

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

13           (c) The applicant has a verified copy of the approval  
14 from the governing authority of the league in which the new  
15 professional sports franchise exists authorizing the location  
16 of the professional sports franchise in this state after  
17 August 16, 1965 ~~April 1, 1987~~, or in the case of a retained  
18 professional sports franchise, verified evidence that it has  
19 had a league-authorized location in this state on or before  
20 December 31, 1976. The term "league" means the National League  
21 or the American League of Major League Baseball, the National  
22 Basketball Association, the National Football League, or the  
23 National Hockey League.

24           (e) The applicant has an independent analysis or  
25 study, verified by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
26 Development, which demonstrates that the amount of the  
27 revenues generated by the taxes imposed under part I of  
28 chapter 212 with respect to the use and operation of the  
29 professional sports franchise facility will equal or exceed \$2  
30 million annually, and in the case of an applicant which has  
31 been certified for one franchise and is an applicant for a

1 different franchise, the amount demonstrated shall be \$2  
2 million annually for each franchise.

3 (h) No applicant previously certified under any  
4 provision of this section who has received funding under such  
5 certification shall be eligible for an additional  
6 certification, unless it is for a different sports franchise  
7 as recognized under paragraph (c).

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

22 (11) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
23 Development shall, in addition to any other requirements of  
24 this section, determine that an applicant which has been  
25 certified under this section prior to June 1, 1997, for one  
26 franchise and is an applicant for certification for a  
27 different franchise under this section after June 1, 1997, has  
28 entered into a contract with the Department of Labor and  
29 Employment Security in which the applicant agrees to register  
30 with the Work and Gain Economic Self-Sufficiency (WAGES)  
31 Program Business Registry established by the local WAGES

1 coalition for the area in which the applicant is located. Such  
2 contract shall further provide that the applicant shall hire  
3 WAGES program participants to the maximum extent possible and  
4 shall provide for appropriate monitoring and training of such  
5 employees. The applicant shall agree to employ a specified  
6 number of WAGES participants in each year that it receives a  
7 distribution under s. 212.20. The number of WAGES participants  
8 to be employed by the applicant shall be based upon the  
9 applicant's good faith efforts, workforce availability,  
10 suitable jobs, and in keeping with the facility's minimum  
11 standards of employment as provided in the contract with the  
12 department. The applicant may renegotiate the contract and  
13 employ fewer program participants if the applicant  
14 demonstrates to the satisfaction of the department that due to  
15 economic condition or the nature of its business in a given  
16 year the requirement to hire the specified number of employees  
17 is unattainable. Each applicant subject to the requirements of  
18 this subsection shall report to the Governor, the President of  
19 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by  
20 December 31 of each year in which the applicant receives a  
21 distribution under s. 212.20 on the extent to which its  
22 employees are WAGES participants. The applicant must agree to  
23 use not less than \$1.5 million for building a job training  
24 facility on the premises of the existing facility for a new  
25 professional sports franchise. The applicant must also agree  
26 to fund a scholarship endowment program at a level not less  
27 than \$2 million at the time of certification. Awards from  
28 this endowment program shall be based on the academic  
29 achievement and personal achievement of the eligible students.  
30 To be eligible for an award from this endowment program, the  
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1 student must be a resident of Dade County or Broward County  
2 and demonstrate financial need.

3           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
4 law.

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