A bill to be entitled An act relating to the tourist development tax; amending s. 125.0104, F.S.; providing for a county to levy an additional tax for the purpose of paying the operating deficit of a convention center located in a community redevelopment area; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (n) of subsection (3) of section 125.0104, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

125.0104 Tourist development tax; procedure for levying; authorized uses; referendum; enforcement.--

(3) TAXABLE PRIVILEGES; EXEMPTIONS; LEVY; RATE.--

(n)<u>1.</u> In addition to any other tax that is imposed under this section, a county that has imposed the tax under paragraph (1) may impose an additional tax that is no greater than 1 percent on the exercise of the privilege described in paragraph (a) by a majority plus one vote of the membership of the board of county commissioners in order:

a. To pay the debt service on bonds issued to finance the construction, reconstruction, or renovation of a facility either publicly owned and operated, or publicly owned and operated by the owner of a professional sports franchise or other lessee with sufficient expertise or financial capability to operate such facility, and to pay the planning and design costs incurred prior to the issuance of such bonds for a new professional sports franchise as defined in s. 288.1162; or.

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b. To pay for the operating deficit of a convention center located in a community redevelopment area, as defined in s. 163.340, within a municipality that has entered into an interlocal agreement with the county for such purpose.

2. A county that imposes the tax authorized in this paragraph may not expend any ad valorem tax revenues for the construction, reconstruction, or renovation of that facility. A county that imposes the tax authorized in sub-subparagraph 1.b. shall, by ordinance, establish a method to calculate the operating surplus or deficit of the convention center. The ordinance must require the county tourist development council to compare, at least annually, the operating surplus or deficit of the convention center to the additional 1-percent of tax levied, as computed by the county tax collector. Any excess of the tax proceeds collected over the amount of the deficit must be placed in escrow, with an established cumulative maximum and minimum amount, to be used solely for future operating deficits. If the reserve reaches the established cumulative maximum amount, the board of county commissioners shall by resolution, on the recommendation of the county tourist development council, suspend the levy of the tax. If the reserve is depleted below the established minimum amount, the board of county commissioners shall by resolution, on the recommendation of the county tourist development council, resume the levy of the tax. A county may levy the tax authorized in sub-subparagraph 1.b. in a subcounty special district of the county and may establish further limitations on persons subjected to the tax as otherwise set forth in paragraph (a). The provision of paragraph (b) which prohibits any county authorized to levy a convention development tax pursuant to s. 212.0305 from

Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

SENATE SUMMARY

Provides for a county to levy an additional tax for the purpose of paying the operating deficit of a convention center located in a community redevelopment area.