

By Representatives Hafner, Ogles, Eggelletion, Heyman, Kosmas, Rayson, Greenstein, Wise, Fuller, Bradley, Arnall, Spratt, Murman, Pruitt, L. Miller, Cosgrove, Boyd, Sembler, Gay, Sanderson, Jones, Ritchie, Morroni, Stafford, Farkas, Maygarden and K. Smith

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to collegiate athletics;
 3 directing the University of Miami, the
 4 University of South Florida, Florida State
 5 University, and the University of Florida to
 6 develop and participate in an annual men's
 7 collegiate basketball tournament; providing for
 8 specified legislative review; authorizing the
 9 Legislature to conduct a specified feasibility
 10 study; providing an effective date.

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 12 WHEREAS, the State of Florida has four major
 13 universities which have successful, major NCAA collegiate
 14 basketball programs, and

15 WHEREAS, each of the universities is a member of a
 16 different NCAA athletic conference, the University of Miami
 17 belonging to the Big East Conference, the University of South
 18 Florida belonging to Conference USA, Florida State University
 19 belonging to the Atlantic Coast Conference, and the University
 20 of Florida belonging to the Southeastern Conference, and

21 WHEREAS, an intrastate tournament between the four
 22 universities is a logical concept that would promote economic
 23 development, create increased interest in collegiate
 24 athletics, and foster university pride, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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 28 Section 1. (1) The University of Miami, the
 29 University of South Florida, Florida State University, and the
 30 University of Florida are directed to develop, by July 1,
 31 2000, and participate in, an annual men's collegiate

1 basketball tournament. The tournament shall consist of a
2 two-game series between the four teams and shall be held at
3 Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg.

4 (2) The Legislature shall review the economic benefits
5 of the annual collegiate basketball tournament developed
6 pursuant to subsection (1) at the end of the tournament's
7 fifth year and at the end of each 5-year period thereafter.

8 (3) In the event that the University of Miami, the
9 University of South Florida, Florida State University, and the
10 University of Florida fail to develop and agree to participate
11 in the annual men's collegiate basketball tournament described
12 in subsection (1) by July 1, 2000, the Legislature is
13 authorized to examine the feasibility of withholding
14 discretionary funding from each of the four universities until
15 such time as the tournament is developed and agreement to
16 participate in the tournament is reached.

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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20 HOUSE SUMMARY

21 Directs the University of Miami, the University of South
22 Florida, Florida State University, and the University of
23 Florida to develop, by July 1, 2000, and participate in,
24 an annual men's collegiate basketball tournament.
25 Provides for legislative review of the economic benefits
26 of the tournament. Authorizes the Legislature to examine
27 the feasibility of withholding discretionary funding from
28 each of the four universities in the event the
29 universities fail to develop and agree to participate in
30 the annual tournament by July 1, 2000.
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