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2 An act relating to spring training franchise  
3 facilities; amending s. 212.20, F.S.; providing  
4 for a monthly distribution of a portion of  
5 revenues under chapter 212, F.S., to certified  
6 facilities for retained spring training  
7 franchises for a specified period; providing an  
8 aggregate limit on monthly distributions to all  
9 certified facilities for a retained spring  
10 training franchise; amending s. 288.1162, F.S.;  
11 redefining the term "new spring training  
12 franchise facility"; providing for  
13 certification of facilities for a retained  
14 spring training franchise by the Office of  
15 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development;  
16 providing certification requirements; providing  
17 for competitive evaluation of applications for  
18 funding; providing evaluation criteria;  
19 providing for use of funds distributed pursuant  
20 to s. 212.20, F.S., to such facilities;  
21 requiring the Office of Tourism, Trade, and  
22 Economic Development to certify a specified  
23 number of sports facilities, and a specified  
24 number of facilities for retained spring  
25 training franchises, under s. 288.1162, F.S.;  
26 providing an effective date.

27  
28 WHEREAS, Major League Baseball Spring Training has been  
29 a part of Florida's history since the early 1900's with teams  
30 such as the 1999 World Champion New York Yankees training in  
31 this state continuously since 1919, and

1           WHEREAS, each year over 1.5 million fans enjoy Major  
2 League Baseball Spring Training games at the 19 spring  
3 training facilities located around the state which contributes  
4 over \$300 million in economic impact to our state's economy,  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, Major League Baseball Spring Training is an  
7 integral part of Florida's history and our economy and has a  
8 rich tradition of offering affordable entertainment to  
9 Florida's visitors, our children, and our seniors, NOW,  
10 THEREFORE,

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

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14           Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subsection (6) of section  
15 212.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16           212.20 Funds collected, disposition; additional powers  
17 of department; operational expense; refund of taxes  
18 adjudicated unconstitutionally collected.--

19           (6) Distribution of all proceeds under this chapter  
20 shall be as follows:

21           (f) The proceeds of all other taxes and fees imposed  
22 pursuant to this chapter shall be distributed as follows:

23           1. In any fiscal year, the greater of \$500 million,  
24 minus an amount equal to 4.6 percent of the proceeds of the  
25 taxes collected pursuant to chapter 201, or 5 percent of all  
26 other taxes and fees imposed pursuant to this chapter shall be  
27 deposited in monthly installments into the General Revenue  
28 Fund.

29           2. Two-tenths of one percent shall be transferred to  
30 the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund.

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1           3. After the distribution under subparagraphs 1. and  
2 2., 9.653 percent of the amount remitted by a sales tax dealer  
3 located within a participating county pursuant to s. 218.61  
4 shall be transferred into the Local Government Half-cent Sales  
5 Tax Clearing Trust Fund.

6           4. After the distribution under subparagraphs 1., 2.,  
7 and 3., 0.054 percent shall be transferred to the Local  
8 Government Half-cent Sales Tax Clearing Trust Fund and  
9 distributed pursuant to s. 218.65.

10          5. Of the remaining proceeds:

11          a. The department shall distribute ~~Beginning July 1,~~  
12 ~~1992,~~ \$166,667 ~~shall be distributed~~ monthly pursuant to s.  
13 ~~288.1162 by the department~~ to each applicant that has been  
14 certified as a "facility for a new professional sports  
15 franchise" or a "facility for a retained professional sports  
16 franchise" pursuant to s. 288.1162. Up to and \$41,667 shall be  
17 distributed monthly by the department to each applicant that  
18 has been certified as a "facility for a retained new spring  
19 training franchise facility" pursuant to s. 288.1162; however,  
20 not more than \$208,335 may be distributed monthly in the  
21 aggregate to all certified facilities for a retained spring  
22 training franchise. Distributions shall begin 60 days  
23 following such certification and shall continue for not more  
24 than 30 years. Nothing contained in this paragraph herein  
25 shall be construed to allow an applicant certified pursuant to  
26 s. 288.1162 to receive more in distributions than actually  
27 expended by the applicant for the public purposes provided for  
28 in s. 288.1162~~(6)(7)~~. However, a certified applicant is  
29 entitled to ~~shall~~ receive distributions up to the maximum  
30 amount allowable and undistributed under this section for  
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1 additional renovations and improvements to the facility for  
2 the franchise without additional certification.

3           b. Beginning 30 days after notice by the Office of  
4 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to the Department of  
5 Revenue that an applicant has been certified as the  
6 professional golf hall of fame pursuant to s. 288.1168 and is  
7 open to the public, \$166,667 shall be distributed monthly, for  
8 up to 300 months, to the applicant.

9           c. Beginning 30 days after notice by the Department of  
10 Commerce to the Department of Revenue that the applicant has  
11 been certified as the International Game Fish Association  
12 World Center facility pursuant to s. 288.1169, and the  
13 facility is open to the public, \$83,333 shall be distributed  
14 monthly, for up to 180 months, to the applicant. This  
15 distribution is subject to reduction pursuant to s. 288.1169.

16           6. All other proceeds shall remain with the General  
17 Revenue Fund.

18           Section 2. Section 288.1162, Florida Statutes, is  
19 amended to read:

20           288.1162 Professional sports franchises; spring  
21 training franchises; duties.--

22           (1) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
23 Development shall serve as the state agency for screening  
24 applicants for state funding pursuant to s. 212.20 and for  
25 certifying an applicant as a "facility for a new professional  
26 sports franchise," a "facility for a retained professional  
27 sports franchise," or a "facility for a retained ~~new~~ spring  
28 training franchise ~~facility~~."

29           (2) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
30 Development shall develop rules for the receipt and processing  
31 of applications for funding pursuant to s. 212.20.

1           (3) As used in this section, the term:

2           (a) "New professional sports franchise" means a  
3 professional sports franchise that is not based in this state  
4 prior to April 1, 1987.

5           (b) "Retained professional sports franchise" means a  
6 professional sports franchise that has had a league-authorized  
7 location in this state on or before December 31, 1976, and has  
8 continuously remained at that location, and has never been  
9 located at a facility that has been previously certified under  
10 any provision of this section.

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

15           (a) A "unit of local government" as defined in s.  
16 218.369 is responsible for the construction, management, or  
17 operation of the professional sports franchise facility or  
18 holds title to the property on which the professional sports  
19 franchise facility is located.

20           (b) The applicant has a verified copy of a signed  
21 agreement with a new professional sports franchise for the use  
22 of the facility for a term of at least 10 years, or in the  
23 case of a retained professional sports franchise, an agreement  
24 for use of the facility for a term of at least 20 years.

25           (c) The applicant has a verified copy of the approval  
26 from the governing authority of the league in which the new  
27 professional sports franchise exists authorizing the location  
28 of the professional sports franchise in this state after April  
29 1, 1987, or in the case of a retained professional sports  
30 franchise, verified evidence that it has had a  
31 league-authorized location in this state on or before December

1 31, 1976. The term "league" means the National League or the  
2 American League of Major League Baseball, the National  
3 Basketball Association, the National Football League, or the  
4 National Hockey League.

5 (d) The applicant has projections, verified by the  
6 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, which  
7 demonstrate that the new or retained professional sports  
8 franchise will attract a paid attendance of more than 300,000  
9 annually.

10 (e) The applicant has an independent analysis or  
11 study, verified by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
12 Development, which demonstrates that the amount of the  
13 revenues generated by the taxes imposed under chapter 212 with  
14 respect to the use and operation of the professional sports  
15 franchise facility will equal or exceed \$2 million annually.

16 (f) The municipality in which the facility for a new  
17 or retained professional sports franchise is located, or the  
18 county if the facility for a new or retained professional  
19 sports franchise is located in an unincorporated area, has  
20 certified by resolution after a public hearing that the  
21 application serves a public purpose.

22 (g) The applicant has demonstrated that it has  
23 provided, is capable of providing, or has financial or other  
24 commitments to provide more than one-half of the costs  
25 incurred or related to the improvement and development of the  
26 facility.

27 (h) No applicant previously certified under any  
28 provision of this section who has received funding under such  
29 certification shall be eligible for an additional  
30 certification.

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1           (5)(a) As used in this section, the term "retained new  
2 spring training franchise" means a spring training franchise  
3 that has been ~~is not~~ based in this state prior to January 1,  
4 2000 ~~July 1, 1990~~.

5           ~~(b)(6)~~ Prior to certifying an applicant as a "facility  
6 for a retained new spring training franchise ~~facility~~," the  
7 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development must  
8 determine that:

9           1.(a) A "unit of local government" as defined in s.  
10 218.369 is responsible for the acquisition, construction,  
11 management, or operation of the facility for a retained new  
12 spring training franchise facility or holds title to the  
13 property on which the facility for a retained new spring  
14 training franchise ~~facility~~ is located.

15           2.(b) The applicant has a verified copy of a signed  
16 agreement with a retained new spring training franchise for  
17 the use of the facility for a term of at least 15 years.

18           3.(c) The applicant has a financial commitment to  
19 provide 50 percent or more of the funds required by an  
20 agreement for the acquisition, construction, or renovation use  
21 of the facility for a retained ~~by the new~~ spring training  
22 franchise. The agreement can be contingent upon the awarding  
23 of funds under this section and other conditions precedent to  
24 use by the spring training franchise.

25           ~~(d)~~ ~~The proposed facility for the new spring training~~  
26 ~~franchise is located within 20 miles of an interstate or other~~  
27 ~~limited-access highway system.~~

28           4.(e) The applicant has projections, verified by the  
29 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, which  
30 demonstrate that the facility for a retained new spring  
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1 training franchise ~~facility~~ will attract a paid attendance of  
2 at least 50,000 annually.

3 ~~5.(f) The facility for a retained ~~new~~ spring training~~  
4 ~~franchise facility is located in a county that is levying a~~  
5 ~~tourist development tax pursuant to s. 125.0104(3)(b), (c),~~  
6 ~~(d), and (1), at the rate of 4 percent by March 1, 1992, and,~~  
7 ~~87.5 percent of the proceeds from such tax are dedicated for~~  
8 ~~the construction of a spring training complex.~~

9 (c) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
10 Development shall competitively evaluate applications for  
11 funding of a facility for a retained spring training  
12 franchise. Applications must be submitted by October 1, 2000,  
13 with certifications to be made by January 1, 2001. If the  
14 number of applicants exceeds five and the aggregate funding  
15 request of all applications exceeds \$208,335 per month, the  
16 office shall rank the applications according to a selection  
17 criteria, certifying the highest ranked proposals. The  
18 evaluation criteria shall include, with priority given in  
19 descending order to the following items:

20 1. The intended use of the funds by the applicant,  
21 with priority given to the construction of a new facility.

22 2. The length of time that the existing franchise has  
23 been located in the state, with priority given to retaining  
24 franchises that have been in the same location the longest.

25 3. The length of time that a facility to be used by a  
26 retained spring training franchise has been used by one or  
27 more spring training franchises, with priority given to a  
28 facility that has been in continuous use as a facility for  
29 spring training the longest.

30 4. For those teams leasing a spring training facility  
31 from a unit of local government, the remaining time on the



1 lease for facilities used by the spring training franchise,  
2 with priority given to the shortest time period remaining on  
3 the lease.

4 5. The duration of the future-use agreement with the  
5 retained spring training franchise, with priority given to the  
6 future-use agreement having the longest duration.

7 6. The amount of the local match, with priority given  
8 to the largest percentage of local match proposed.

9 7. The net increase of total active recreation space  
10 owned by the applying unit of local government following the  
11 acquisition of land for the spring training facility, with  
12 priority given to the largest percentage increase of total  
13 active recreation space.

14 8. The location of the facility in a brownfield, an  
15 enterprise zone, a community redevelopment area, or other area  
16 of targeted development or revitalization included in an Urban  
17 Infill Redevelopment Plan, with priority given to facilities  
18 located in these areas.

19 9. The projections on paid attendance attracted by the  
20 facility and the proposed effect on the economy of the local  
21 community, with priority given to the highest projected paid  
22 attendance.

23 (d) Funds may not be expended to subsidize privately  
24 owned and maintained facilities for use by the spring training  
25 franchise. Funds may be used to relocate a retained spring  
26 training franchise to another unit of local government only if  
27 the existing unit of local government with the retained spring  
28 training franchise agrees to the relocation.

29 (6)(7) An applicant certified as a facility for a new  
30 professional sports franchise or a facility for a retained  
31 professional sports franchise or as a facility for a retained

1 ~~new~~ spring training franchise ~~facility~~ may use funds provided  
2 pursuant to s. 212.20 only for the public purpose of paying  
3 for the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or  
4 renovation of a facility for a new professional sports  
5 franchise, a facility for a retained professional sports  
6 franchise, or a facility for a retained ~~new~~ spring training  
7 franchise ~~facility~~ or to pay or pledge for the payment of debt  
8 service on, or to fund debt service reserve funds, arbitrage  
9 rebate obligations, or other amounts payable with respect to,  
10 bonds issued for the acquisition, construction,  
11 reconstruction, or renovation of such facility or for the  
12 reimbursement of such costs or the refinancing of bonds issued  
13 for such purposes.

14 (7)~~(8)~~ The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
15 Development shall notify the Department of Revenue of any  
16 facility certified as a facility for a new professional sports  
17 franchise or a facility for a retained professional sports  
18 franchise or as a facility for a retained ~~new~~ spring training  
19 franchise ~~facility~~. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and  
20 Economic Development shall ~~may~~ certify no more than eight  
21 facilities as facilities for a new professional sports  
22 franchise or, as facilities for a retained professional sports  
23 franchise and shall certify at least five, ~~or as facilities~~  
24 for retained ~~new~~ spring training franchises ~~franchise~~  
25 ~~facilities~~, including in such total any facilities certified  
26 by the Department of Commerce before July 1, 1996. The office  
27 may make no more than one certification for any facility. The  
28 office may not certify funding for less than the requested  
29 amount to any applicant certified as a facility for a retained  
30 spring training franchise.

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1           (8)~~(9)~~ The Department of Revenue may audit as provided  
2 in s. 213.34 to verify that the distributions pursuant to this  
3 section have been expended as required in this section. Such  
4 information is subject to the confidentiality requirements of  
5 chapter 213. If the Department of Revenue determines that the  
6 distributions pursuant to this section have not been expended  
7 as required by this section, it may pursue recovery of such  
8 funds pursuant to the laws and rules governing the assessment  
9 of taxes.

10           (9)~~(10)~~ An applicant is ~~shall~~ not ~~be~~ qualified for  
11 certification under this section if the franchise formed the  
12 basis for a previous certification, unless the previous  
13 certification was withdrawn by the facility or invalidated by  
14 the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development or the  
15 Department of Commerce before any funds were distributed  
16 pursuant to s. 212.20. This subsection does not disqualify an  
17 applicant if the previous certification occurred between May  
18 23, 1993, and May 25, 1993; however, any funds to be  
19 distributed pursuant to s. 212.20 for the second certification  
20 shall be offset by the amount distributed to the previous  
21 certified facility. Distribution of funds for the second  
22 certification shall not be made until all amounts payable for  
23 the first certification have been distributed.

24           Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
25 law.