

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to professional sports franchises;  
 3           amending s. 288.1162, F.S.; increasing the number of  
 4           facilities certified by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and  
 5           Economic Development as facilities for a new professional  
 6           sports franchise or as facilities for a retained  
 7           professional sports franchise; providing an additional  
 8           exception to disqualification for certification of an  
 9           applicant when the franchise formed the basis of a  
 10          previous certification; providing that payments to a  
 11          certified applicant may not extend beyond the period for  
 12          which the original certification was issued; specifying  
 13          the date on which an applicant certified after the  
 14          effective date of the act may receive disbursements;  
 15          providing an effective date.

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

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 19           Section 1. Subsections (7) and (9) of section 288.1162,  
 20   Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

23           (7) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development  
 24   shall notify the Department of Revenue of any facility certified  
 25   as a facility for a new professional sports franchise or a  
 26   facility for a retained professional sports franchise or as a  
 27   facility for a retained spring training franchise. The Office of  
 28   Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall certify no more

29 than nine ~~eight~~ facilities as facilities for a new professional  
 30 sports franchise or as facilities for a retained professional  
 31 sports franchise and shall certify at least five as facilities  
 32 for retained spring training franchises, including in such total  
 33 any facilities certified by the Department of Commerce before  
 34 July 1, 1996. The office may make no more than one certification  
 35 for any facility. The office may not certify funding for less  
 36 than the requested amount to any applicant certified as a  
 37 facility for a retained spring training franchise.

38 (9)(a) An applicant is not qualified for certification  
 39 under this section if the franchise formed the basis for a  
 40 previous certification, unless:

41 1. The previous certification was withdrawn by the  
 42 facility or invalidated by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and  
 43 Economic Development or the Department of Commerce before any  
 44 funds were distributed pursuant to s. 212.20; or-

45 2. The previous certification was for an applicant that  
 46 served as the home facility for two professional sports  
 47 franchises and the franchise was used as a basis for the  
 48 certification of a new applicant. Notwithstanding any other  
 49 provision of this section, the franchise continuing to use the  
 50 original applicant shall be deemed the franchise forming the  
 51 basis of the previous certification and the previous  
 52 certification shall continue to apply for the time period  
 53 permitted from the original date of certification.

54 (b) This subsection does not disqualify an applicant if  
 55 the previous certification occurred between May 23, 1993, and  
 56 May 25, 1993; however, any funds to be distributed pursuant to

57 s. 212.20 for the second certification shall be offset by the  
58 amount distributed to the previous certified facility.  
59 Distribution of funds for the second certification shall not be  
60 made until all amounts payable for the first certification have  
61 been distributed.

62 (c) Payments to a certified applicant may not extend  
63 beyond the period for which the original certification was  
64 issued.

65 Section 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an  
66 applicant that is certified after the effective date of this act  
67 pursuant to s. 228.1162, Florida Statutes, by the Office of  
68 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development as a facility for a new  
69 professional sports franchise or a facility for a retained  
70 professional sports franchise may not receive disbursements  
71 pursuant to s. 212.20(6)(d)7.b., Florida Statutes, until July 1,  
72 2006.

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