

By Senator Bennett

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Senate Joint Resolution No. ____

A joint resolution proposing the creation of Section 19 of Article VII of the State Constitution; requiring that the use of public funds in aid of any professional sports team, or to pay for a facility used or intended to be used by a professional sports team or for a professional sporting event, be approved by a vote of the electors of the state or by the electors of the affected county, school district, municipality, or special district; providing an exception for such payments authorized before a specified date.

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

That the following creation of Section 19 of Article VII of the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE VII

FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 19. VOTER APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR PROFESSIONAL SPORTS FACILITIES.--No revenue of the state or any county, school district, municipality, special district, or agency thereof shall ever be taken from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any professional sports team, or to pay for any facility used or intended to be used by any professional sports team or for any professional sporting

1 event, unless approved by a vote of the electors of the state
2 or by the electors of the affected county, school district,
3 municipality, or special district. However, this section does
4 not prohibit the payment of funds for such purposes if such
5 payment was authorized before February 1, 2005.

6 BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
7 placed on the ballot:

8 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

9 ARTICLE VII, SECTION 19

10 VOTER APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC MONEYS TO BE USED IN
11 SUPPORT OF A PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAM, SPORTS FACILITY, OR
12 SPORTING EVENT.--Proposing an amendment to the State
13 Constitution to prohibit the use of public funds to aid,
14 directly or indirectly, any professional sports team, or to
15 pay for any facility used or intended to be used by any
16 professional sports team or for any professional sporting
17 event, unless approved by a vote of the electors of the state
18 or by the electors of the affected county, school district,
19 municipality, or special district, and to exempt any such
20 payment of funds which was authorized before February 1, 2005.