Florida Senate - 2007

By Senator Bennett

21-583-07 1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to the use of public moneys and 3 property; providing definitions; prohibiting 4 the use of public funds for certain purposes 5 benefiting a professional sports team; б providing exceptions; amending s. 196.199, 7 F.S.; providing for the ad valorem taxation of 8 property owned by a governmental entity if the property is used by a private entity for a 9 10 nonexempt purpose; providing effective dates. 11 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 13 Section 1. (1) As used in this section, the term: 14 (a) "Governmental entity" means the state, a county, a 15 municipality, or an entity created by and acting on behalf of 16 17 the state, a county, or a municipality. 18 (b) "Professional sports team" means a professional sports franchise that exists within the National League or the 19 American League of Major League Baseball, the National 20 21 Basketball Association, the National Football League, or the 22 National Hockey League. 23 (c) "Public funds" means any moneys held by a 2.4 governmental entity. 25 (2) Notwithstanding any other law and except as provided in subsection (3), a governmental entity may not 26 spend public funds in aid of a professional sports team, to 27 2.8 pay for a facility used or intended to be used for such a team, or for a sporting event of such a team unless the 29 30 expenditure has been approved by a majority vote of the 31

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1 registered electors residing within the jurisdictional 2 boundaries of the governmental entity. 3 (3) This section does not prohibit the expenditure of 4 funds to meet a legally binding obligation of a governmental 5 entity which was created before July 1, 2007, or to compensate 6 an employee of a governmental entity for an activity that is 7 within the scope of his or her employment which assists a 8 professional sports team in an incidental manner, such as advising a professional sports team of applicable regulatory 9 10 requirements. Section 2. Effective January 1, 2008, subsection (11) 11 12 is added to section 196.199, Florida Statutes, to read: 13 196.199 Government property exemption .--(11) Property that is owned by a governmental entity 14 and that is otherwise exempt or immune from taxation is 15 taxable if the property is used by a private entity in any 16 17 manner other than predominantly for a governmental, 18 charitable, literary, religious, scientific, or educational 19 purpose. 20 Section 3. Except as otherwise expressly provided in 21 this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2007. 22 ***** 23 SENATE SUMMARY 2.4 Prohibits the use of public funds for certain purposes 25 benefiting a professional sport team. Provides that property owned by a governmental entity is taxable if the 2.6 property is used by a private entity for a nonexempt 27 purpose. 2.8 29 30 31 2

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