

By Senator Siplin

19-278-07

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to economic development;
3 amending s. 125.0104, F.S., relating to the
4 local option tourist development tax; allowing
5 a county that levies the tax authorized under
6 s. 125.0104(3)(n), F.S., to use the tax
7 proceeds to participate with the state in an
8 economic-development project to attract
9 specified types of high-technology industries
10 to the county; providing an effective date.

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12 WHEREAS, the commercialization of technologies
13 developed in academic laboratories and research centers
14 through the application of recent innovations is critical for
15 Florida to maintain a competitive economy, and

16 WHEREAS, the development of high-technology industries
17 in Florida, including artificial intelligence, human-centered
18 computing, information technology and communications,
19 biotechnology, bioinformatics, biomedical research,
20 electro-optics, life science, nanotechnology, and computer
21 simulation, is critical to the long-term economic vitality of
22 this state, and

23 WHEREAS, high-technology industries will further
24 diversify and strengthen the Florida economy and complement
25 industries that are already recognized as being critical to
26 Florida's economic health, and

27 WHEREAS, attracting leading scholars and researchers in
28 advanced and emerging technology disciplines to Florida's
29 universities is critical to building Florida's knowledge base
30 and will serve a paramount public purpose, NOW, THEREFORE,
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1 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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3 Section 1. Paragraph (n) of subsection (3) of section
4 125.0104, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5 125.0104 Tourist development tax; procedure for
6 levying; authorized uses; referendum; enforcement.--

7 (3) TAXABLE PRIVILEGES; EXEMPTIONS; LEVY; RATE.--

8 (n) In addition to any other tax that is imposed under
9 this section, a county that has imposed the tax under
10 paragraph (l) may impose an additional tax that is no greater
11 than 1 percent on the exercise of the privilege described in
12 paragraph (a) by a majority plus one vote of the membership of
13 the board of county commissioners in order to:

14 1. Pay the debt service on bonds issued to finance:

15 a. The construction, reconstruction, or renovation of
16 a facility either publicly owned and operated, or publicly
17 owned and operated by the owner of a professional sports
18 franchise or other lessee with sufficient expertise or
19 financial capability to operate such facility, and to pay the
20 planning and design costs incurred prior to the issuance of
21 such bonds for a new professional sports franchise as defined
22 in s. 288.1162.

23 b. The acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or
24 renovation of a facility either publicly owned and operated,
25 or publicly owned and operated by the owner of a professional
26 sports franchise or other lessee with sufficient expertise or
27 financial capability to operate such facility, and to pay the
28 planning and design costs incurred prior to the issuance of
29 such bonds for a retained spring training franchise.

30 2. Promote and advertise tourism in the State of
31 Florida and nationally and internationally; however, if tax

1 revenues are expended for an activity, service, venue, or
2 event, the activity, service, venue, or event shall have as
3 one of its main purposes the attraction of tourists as
4 evidenced by the promotion of the activity, service, venue, or
5 event to tourists.

6 3. Participate with the state in an economic
7 development project for which additional revenues are needed
8 to attract to the county high-technology industries, including
9 information technology and communications, biotechnology,
10 bioinformation, biomedical research, electro-optics, life
11 science, nanotechnology, and computer simulation.

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13 A county that imposes the tax authorized in this paragraph may
14 not expend any ad valorem tax revenues for the acquisition,
15 construction, reconstruction, or renovation of a facility for
16 which tax revenues are used pursuant to subparagraph 1. The
17 provision of paragraph (b) which prohibits any county
18 authorized to levy a convention development tax pursuant to s.
19 212.0305 from levying more than the 2-percent tax authorized
20 by this section shall not apply to the additional tax
21 authorized by this paragraph in counties which levy convention
22 development taxes pursuant to s. 212.0305(4)(a). Subsection
23 (4) does not apply to the adoption of the additional tax
24 authorized in this paragraph. The effective date of the levy
25 and imposition of the tax authorized under this paragraph is
26 the first day of the second month following approval of the
27 ordinance by the board of county commissioners or the first
28 day of any subsequent month specified in the ordinance. A
29 certified copy of such ordinance shall be furnished by the
30 county to the Department of Revenue within 10 days after
31 approval of the ordinance.

1 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
2 law.

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5 SENATE SUMMARY

6 Allows a county that levies a local option tourist
7 development tax under s. 125.0104(3)(n), F.S., to use the
8 tax proceeds to participate with the state in an
9 economic-development project to attract specified types
10 of high-technology industries to the county.

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