

19-02452-08

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

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

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

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

25           WHEREAS, attracting leading scholars and researchers in  
26           advanced and emerging technology disciplines to Florida's  
27           universities is critical to building the state's knowledge base  
28           and will serve a paramount public purpose, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

b. The acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or renovation of a facility either publicly owned and operated, or publicly owned and operated by the owner of a professional sports franchise or other lessee with sufficient expertise or financial capability to operate such facility, and to pay the planning and

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56 design costs incurred prior to the issuance of such bonds for a  
57 retained spring training franchise.

58 2. Promote and advertise tourism in the State of Florida  
59 and nationally and internationally; however, if tax revenues are  
60 expended for an activity, service, venue, or event, the activity,  
61 service, venue, or event shall have as one of its main purposes  
62 the attraction of tourists as evidenced by the promotion of the  
63 activity, service, venue, or event to tourists.

64 3. Participate with the state in an economic-development  
65 project for which additional revenues are needed to attract to  
66 the county high-technology industries, including information  
67 technology and communications, biotechnology, bioinformation,  
68 biomedical research, electro-optics, life science,  
69 nanotechnology, and computer simulation.

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71 A county that imposes the tax authorized in this paragraph may  
72 not expend any ad valorem tax revenues for the acquisition,  
73 construction, reconstruction, or renovation of a facility for  
74 which tax revenues are used pursuant to subparagraph 1. The  
75 provision of paragraph (b) which prohibits any county authorized  
76 to levy a convention development tax pursuant to s. 212.0305 from  
77 levying more than the 2-percent tax authorized by this section  
78 shall not apply to the additional tax authorized by this  
79 paragraph in counties which levy convention development taxes  
80 pursuant to s. 212.0305(4)(a). Subsection (4) does not apply to  
81 the adoption of the additional tax authorized in this paragraph.  
82 The effective date of the levy and imposition of the tax  
83 authorized under this paragraph is the first day of the second

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84 | month following approval of the ordinance by the board of county  
85 | commissioners or the first day of any subsequent month specified  
86 | in the ordinance. A certified copy of such ordinance shall be  
87 | furnished by the county to the Department of Revenue within 10  
88 | days after approval of the ordinance.

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