

By Senator Bennett

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the use of public moneys and
 3 property; defining the terms "governmental entity,"
 4 "professional sports team," and "public funds";
 5 prohibiting the use of public funds for certain
 6 purposes benefiting a professional sports team;
 7 providing exceptions; amending s. 196.199, F.S.;
 8 providing for the ad valorem taxation of property
 9 owned by a governmental entity if the property is used
 10 by a private entity for a nonexempt purpose; providing
 11 effective dates.

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

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 15 Section 1. (1) As used in this section, the term:
 16 (a) "Governmental entity" means the state, a county, a
 17 municipality, or an entity created by and acting on behalf of
 18 the state, a county, or a municipality.
 19 (b) "Professional sports team" means a professional sports
 20 franchise that exists within the National League or the American
 21 League of Major League Baseball, the National Basketball
 22 Association, the National Football League, or the National
 23 Hockey League.
 24 (c) "Public funds" means any moneys held by a governmental
 25 entity.
 26 (2) Notwithstanding any other law and except as provided in
 27 subsection (3), a governmental entity may not spend public funds
 28 in aid of a professional sports team, to pay for a facility used
 29 or intended to be used for a professional sports team, or for a

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30 sporting event of a professional sports team unless the
31 expenditure has been approved by a majority vote of the
32 registered electors residing within the jurisdictional
33 boundaries of the governmental entity.

34 (3) This section does not prohibit the expenditure of funds
35 to meet a legally binding obligation of a governmental entity
36 which was created before July 1, 2009, or to compensate an
37 employee of a governmental entity for an activity that is within
38 the scope of his or her employment and that assists a
39 professional sports team in an incidental manner, such as
40 advising a professional sports team of applicable regulatory
41 requirements.

42 Section 2. Effective January 1, 2010, subsection (11) is
43 added to section 196.199, Florida Statutes, to read:

44 196.199 Government property exemption.—

45 (11) Property that is owned by a governmental entity and
46 that is otherwise exempt or immune from taxation is taxable if
47 the property is used by a private entity in any manner other
48 than predominantly for a governmental, charitable, literary,
49 religious, scientific, or educational purpose.

50 Section 3. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
51 act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2009.