

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Regulated Industries Committee

BILL: SB 712

INTRODUCER: Senator Bogdanoff

SUBJECT: Destination Resort Trust Fund/Department of Gaming Control

DATE: January 9, 2012 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Harrington	Imhof	RI	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	BC	_____
3.	_____	_____	RC	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

A trust fund consists of moneys received by the state, which under law or under trust agreement, are segregated for a purpose authorized by law.¹

This bill creates the Destination Resort Trust Fund within the Department of Gaming Control to hold the deposits of licensing fees and the proceeds of gross receipts taxes imposed on destination resorts, which are authorized in the linked bill, SB 710.

The deposited funds may be expended only pursuant to legislative appropriation or an approved amendment to the State Gaming Commission’s operating budget, pursuant to ch. 216, F.S.

In accordance with the state constitution, the trust fund will be terminated on July 1, 2016, unless terminated sooner by the Legislature. The trust fund must be reviewed prior to its scheduled termination according to statutory requirements.

Passage of SB 712 requires a three-fifths vote of each chamber, pursuant to s. 19(f)(1), Art. III of the Florida Constitution.

This bill creates section 551.317, Florida Statutes.

¹ Section 215.32(2)(b)1., F.S.

II. Present Situation:

Constitutional and statutory requirements for trust funds

A trust fund consists of moneys received by the state, which under law or under trust agreement, are segregated for a purpose authorized by law. Section 19(f), Art. III, of the Florida Constitution governs the creation of trust funds. This constitutional provision prohibits the creation by law of a trust fund of the state or other public body without a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature. This provision further specifies that a trust fund must be created in a separate bill for that purpose only.

In addition, the Legislature has established criteria governing the establishment of trust funds. Under these criteria, a law creating a trust fund must, at a minimum, specify:

- The name of the trust fund;
- The agency or branch of state government responsible for administering the trust fund;
- The requirements or purposes that the trust fund is established to meet; and
- The sources of moneys to be credited to the trust fund or specific sources of receipts to be deposited in the trust fund.²

The Chief Financial Officer is directed to invest all trust funds and all agency funds of each state agency.³ Under current law, any balance of an appropriation for any given fiscal year that is remaining after lawful expenditures have been charged against it reverts to the fund from which the Legislature appropriated it and shall be available for re-appropriation by the Legislature.⁴ Any reversion of appropriations provided from the General Revenue Fund must be transferred to the General Revenue Fund within 15 days after the reversion, unless otherwise provided by federal or state law, including the General Appropriations Act.⁵

State trust funds terminate no more than 4 years after the effective date of the act that created them, unless they are re-created by the Legislature with a three-fifths vote of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

State Gaming Commission

SB 710, the linked companion to SB 712, creates the Department of Gaming Control (department). The head of the department is the State Gaming Commission (commission). The commission is authorized to license up to three “destination resorts” and to regulate those facilities, along with other gaming activities that occur throughout the state, including pari-mutuel wagering activities. Among its powers and duties, the commission will have the authority to accept and review applications for destination resorts; license a total of three destination resorts; inspect the resorts’ premises and gaming machines; and conduct investigations and issue subpoenas, as necessary, to gather information essential to licensing and regulating the destination resorts.

² Section 215.3207, F.S.

³ Section 17.61(1), F.S.

⁴ Section 216.301(1)(b), F.S.

⁵ Section 216.301(1)(d), F.S.

A destination resort is defined in the companion bill as a multi-use, free-standing, land-based structure in which limited gaming may be conducted, and may include a combination of tourism amenities, such as hotels, restaurants, attractions, shopping centers, and convention centers. The types of gaming that may be offered at destination resorts include baccarat, roulette, poker and other card games, craps, slot machines, and video gaming.

The initial application fee is \$50 million, and licensed destination resorts must pay an annual \$2 million renewal fee. Destination resorts must invest a minimum \$2 billion in new development and construction for the resort, excluding the purchase price and costs associated with the acquisition of any real property. In addition, destination resorts must pay a 10 percent tax on its gross receipts from all gaming activities.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 creates s. 551.317, F.S., and establishes the Destination Resort Trust Fund. Deposited in the trust fund will be the license fees for the resorts and gross receipts taxes collected from the licensed resorts.

The deposited funds may be expended only pursuant to legislative appropriation or an approved amendment to the Destination Resort Commission's operating budget, pursuant to ch. 216, F.S.

In accordance with the state constitution, the trust fund will be terminated on July 1, 2016, unless terminated sooner by the Legislature. The trust fund must be reviewed prior to its scheduled termination according to statutory requirements in ss. 215.3206(1) and (2), F.S.

Section 2 provides that the act shall take effect on the same date that SB 710 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is enacted in the same legislative session, or an extension thereof, and becomes law, and only if this act is enacted by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

In accordance with s. 19(f)(2), Art. III of the Florida Constitution, the Destination Resort Trust Fund shall be terminated on July 1, 2016. Before its scheduled termination, the fund shall be reviewed in accordance with ss. 215.3206(1) and (2), F.S.

In addition, s. 19(f)(1), Art. III of the Florida Constitution provides that "[n]o trust fund of the State of Florida or other public body may be created or re-created by law without a

three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature in a separate bill for that purpose only.”

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.