

By Senator Fasano

11-00666-12

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1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to new or retained professional sports  
3 franchises; prohibiting a new or retained professional  
4 sport franchise that uses a facility that receives  
5 certain distributions of public funds or the  
6 franchise's league from preventing television or radio  
7 broadcasts of games in the facility due to  
8 insufficient ticket sales; providing that the sports  
9 franchise is subject to a fine by the county in which  
10 the facility is located if broadcasts of a game are  
11 prohibited; requiring that the proceeds of the fine be  
12 used to purchase tickets to games of the sports  
13 franchise at the publicly financed facility for  
14 specified individuals and their families; providing an  
15 effective date.

16  
17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

18  
19 Section 1. Broadcast blackouts prohibited at publicly  
20 financed facilities.-

21 (1) A new or retained professional sports franchise using a  
22 facility that receives public funding under s. 212.20(6)(d)6.,  
23 Florida Statutes, or the franchise's league may not prohibit  
24 television or radio broadcasts of a game played in the facility  
25 in areas near the facility due to insufficient ticket sales.

26 (2) If the professional sports franchise or its league  
27 violates this section, the professional sports franchise is  
28 subject to a fine by the county in which the facility is located  
29 in the amount of \$125,000 per violation. A fine assessed under

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30 this section must be paid by the franchise before it plays the  
31 first regular season game of the next season in the publicly  
32 financed facility.

33 (3) The proceeds of the fine shall be used by the county or  
34 the public sports authority for the county exclusively to  
35 purchase tickets to games of the professional sports franchise  
36 at the facility for foster children and their foster families,  
37 nonprofit youth organizations, and the United Service  
38 Organization, Inc., which organization will provide the tickets  
39 to servicemembers on leave from active duty in a combat zone and  
40 their families.

41 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.