

By Senator Simmons

10-00293A-13

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to professional sports franchises;
3 amending s. 288.1162, F.S.; adding Major League Soccer
4 to the meaning of the term "league"; providing that a
5 previously certified applicant is not eligible for an
6 additional certification under certain circumstances;
7 requiring the Department of Economic Opportunity to
8 reserve two new facility certifications for new Major
9 League Soccer franchises; providing an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Paragraphs (c) and (h) of subsection (4) and
14 subsection (6) of section 288.1162, Florida Statutes, are
15 amended to read:

16 288.1162 Professional sports franchises; duties.—

17 (4) Before certifying an applicant as a facility for a new
18 or retained professional sports franchise, the department must
19 determine that:

20 (c) The applicant has a verified copy of the approval from
21 the governing authority of the league in which the new
22 professional sports franchise exists authorizing the location of
23 the professional sports franchise in this state after April 1,
24 1987, or in the case of a retained professional sports
25 franchise, verified evidence that it has had a league-authorized
26 location in this state on or before December 31, 1976. As used
27 in this section, the term "league" means the National League or
28 the American League of Major League Baseball, the National
29 Basketball Association, the National Football League, Major

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30 League Soccer, or the National Hockey League.

31 (h) An applicant previously certified under any provision
32 of this section who has received funding under such
33 certification is not eligible for an additional certification
34 for a franchise or facility that has already served as the basis
35 for a previous certification.

36 (6) The department shall notify the Department of Revenue
37 of any facility certified as a facility for a new or retained
38 professional sports franchise. The department shall certify no
39 more than 10 ~~eight~~ facilities as facilities for a new
40 professional sports franchise or as facilities for a retained
41 professional sports franchise, including in the total any
42 facilities certified by the former Department of Commerce before
43 July 1, 1996. The department shall reserve two facility
44 certifications for new professional sports franchises in Major
45 League Soccer. The department may make no more than one
46 certification for any facility.

47 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.