

1 A bill to be entitled  
 2 An act relating to professional sports franchises;  
 3 amending s. 288.1162, F.S.; redefining the term  
 4 "league" to include Major League Soccer; prohibiting  
 5 certain previously certified applicants from receiving  
 6 an additional certification for certain franchises or  
 7 facilities; increasing the number of facilities that  
 8 the Department of Economic Opportunity may certify as  
 9 a facility for a new or retained professional sports  
 10 franchise; requiring the department to reserve two  
 11 facility certifications for new Major League Soccer  
 12 franchises; providing an effective date.

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 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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16 Section 1. Subsection (3), paragraphs (c) and (h) of  
 17 subsection (4), and subsection (6) of section 288.1162, Florida  
 18 Statutes, are amended to read:

19 288.1162 Professional sports franchises; duties.—

20 (3) As used in this section, the term:

21 (a) "League" means Major League Soccer, the National  
 22 League or the American League of Major League Baseball, the  
 23 National Basketball Association, the National Football League,  
 24 or the National Hockey League.

25 (b)-(a) "New professional sports franchise" means a  
 26 professional sports franchise that was not based in this state

27 before April 1, 1987.

28 (c)~~(b)~~ "Retained professional sports franchise" means a  
29 professional sports franchise that has had a league-authorized  
30 location in this state on or before December 31, 1976, and has  
31 continuously remained at that location, and has never been  
32 located at a facility that has been previously certified under  
33 any provision of this section.

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

37 (c) The applicant has a verified copy of the approval from  
38 the governing authority of the league in which the new  
39 professional sports franchise exists authorizing the location of  
40 the professional sports franchise in this state after April 1,  
41 1987, or in the case of a retained professional sports  
42 franchise, verified evidence that it has had a league-authorized  
43 location in this state on or before December 31, 1976. ~~As used~~  
44 ~~in this section, the term "league" means the National League or~~  
45 ~~the American League of Major League Baseball, the National~~  
46 ~~Basketball Association, the National Football League, or the~~  
47 ~~National Hockey League.~~

48 (h) An applicant previously certified under ~~any provision~~  
49 ~~of~~ this section who has received funding under such  
50 certification is not eligible for an additional certification  
51 for a franchise or facility that has served as the basis for a  
52 previous certification.

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53           (6) (a) The department shall notify the Department of  
54 Revenue of any facility certified as a facility for a new or  
55 retained professional sports franchise.

56           (b) The department may not ~~shall~~ certify ~~no~~ more than 10  
57 ~~eight~~ facilities as facilities for a new professional sports  
58 franchise or as facilities for a retained professional sports  
59 franchise, including in the total any facilities certified by  
60 the former Department of Commerce before July 1, 1996. The  
61 department shall reserve two facility certifications for new  
62 professional sports franchises in Major League Soccer. The  
63 department may make no more than one certification for any  
64 facility.

65           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.