



HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



REPRESENTATIVE RAY RODRIGUES, MAJORITY LEADER

Bill Snapshot

HB 13: Sports Franchise Facilities

Floridians take great pride in their sports teams, but they should not have to see their hard-earned tax dollars fund stadium construction or renovations on public land. In Florida, 80% of professional sports franchises have facilities on public land that taxpayers subsidize to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars. These deals have been financial disasters for taxpayers; for example, public dollars have financed as much as 125% of total stadiums costs in four Florida cities alone.ⁱ

In addition, independent researchers found that public investments not only fail to provide strong economic growth, but they also enrich owners and players at the taxpayers' expense.ⁱⁱ

HB 13 ends the practice of wasting taxpayer dollars to subsidize sports franchises on public lands, while also ensuring these organizations are held accountable by requiring them to pay outstanding debts if they no longer use their stadiums. If these teams want to build or renovate stadiums, they should do so with private dollars.

Highlights of the bill are as follows:

- Prohibits a sports franchise from constructing, reconstructing, renovating, or improving a facility on public land leased from the state or a local government.
- Requires a lease of a facility on public land by the state or a local government to a sports franchise to be at fair market value.
 - Currently, cities and counties can offer below-market rate leases or deeds for real property for stadiums.
- Requires a sale of public land by the state or a local government for a sports franchise to construct, reconstruct, renovate, or improve a facility on such land to be at fair market value.
- Requires a contract or agreement between a sports franchise and the state or a local government for the construction, reconstruction, renovation, or improvement of a facility to include a provision that requires the sports franchise to pay any outstanding debt incurred by the state or local government to fund such construction, reconstruction, renovation, or improvement if the sports franchise permanently discontinues use of the facility.

*Did You Know? Taxpayers nationally have shelled out an estimated **\$6.7 billion dollars** to build or renovate NFL stadiums since 1997!**

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Government Accountability Committee

**Sponsors:
Rep. Avila and Rep. Diaz**

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**Waiting to be added to the
Second Reading Calendar**

HEADING TO:

The Floor



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ⁱ ["Public Subsidies and the Location and Pricing of Sports," Philip K. Porter and Christopher R. Thomas, Southern Economic Journal.](#)

ⁱⁱ ["Public Funding of Sports Stadiums," Sarah Wilhelm, Center for Public Policy & Administration- The University of Utah;](#) ["The Economics of Subsidizing Sports Stadiums," Scott A. Wolla, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis;](#) ["Sports stadiums do not generate significant local economic growth, Stanford expert says," Clifton B. Parker, Stanford News.](#)

^{*}["NFL risks billions in publicly funded stadiums as millionaire players stage kneeling protests," Jeff Mordock, The Washington Times.](#)