



HB 791 Sports Franchises and Facilities

- **HB 791** 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.
- The bill repeals the following programs:
 - Professional Sports Franchise Program
 - Spring Training Baseball Franchises Program
 - Retention of MLB Spring Training Baseball Franchises Program
 - Sports Development Program
 - Motorsports Entertainment Complex Program
- The bill prohibits a sports franchise from constructing, reconstructing, renovating, or improving a facility on land leased from state or local government.
- The bill 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.
- The bill states that sports facilities owned, operated, or leased by a sports franchise are not exempt from taxation.
- The bill requires that if a sports franchise closes their stadium, they are required to pay any outstanding debt incurred by the state or local government to construct, reconstruct, or improve the facility.
- The bill allows certain currently certified facilities to be grandfathered in and still receive funds in accordance with their agreement.
- After July 1, 2019, the bill prohibits local governments from using Tourist Development Tax (TDT) or Convention Development Tax funds to service bonds issued to finance construction, reconstruction, or renovation of professional sports or spring training franchise facilities.
- The bill prohibits a county commission from leasing a professional sports franchise facility that was financed with TDT or certain Sales Tax distributions.