



Did You Know?

Since [1997](#), over \$6.7 billion in taxpayer funds have been spent on stadiums for teams in the NFL alone.

In [Florida](#), economists found no correlation between sporting events and taxable sales from 1980 to mid-2005.

According to Stanford economist [Roger Noll](#),

- NFL stadiums do not generate significant local economic growth, and the incremental tax revenue is not sufficient to cover any significant financial contribution by the city.

In a recent [report by the Office of Economic & Demographic Research](#),

- Programs to fund professional sports franchises fail to break even, returning only 30 cents for every state dollar spent.

[Orlando City SC](#), Florida's newest major league franchise, [privately funded](#) its entire [\\$155 million stadium](#).

- This decision was made after the Florida House declined to give \$30 million in funding.
- The club then made the entire project privately funded, which saved the City of Orlando \$15 million and will now allow the city to generate property tax revenue from the stadium.

REFRESHER: HB 13 SPORTS FRANCHISE FACILITIES

BACKGROUND

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.

Last session's version of the bill, CS/HB 77, was heard in two committees and passed the House, but died in the Senate. It was reintroduced by Rep. Avila and was reported favorably with a Committee Substitute by the Government Accountability Committee on December 10, 2017.

The bottom line: 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. HB 13 ensures that if these teams want to build or renovate stadiums, they must do so with private dollars.

BILL HIGHLIGHTS

- 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.