1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to taxation; amending s. 3 212.20, F.S.; providing for the Department of 4 Revenue to distribute sales tax reimbursements to certified sports industry economic 5 6 development projects under certain 7 circumstances; providing a lump sum payment to the International Game Fish Association World 8 Center; reducing the maximum number of monthly 9 distributions to account for the lump sum 10 payment; amending s. 213.053, F.S.; extending 11 12 the current information sharing with the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to 13 14 include the sales tax reimbursement program for 15 certified sports industry economic development projects; creating s. 288.113, F.S.; creating a 16 17 tax reimbursement program for certified sports industry economic development projects; 18 19 providing legislative findings and declarations; providing definitions; providing 20 21 eligibility criteria for amateur sports 22 businesses; prescribing the terms and amounts 23 of tax reimbursements; providing a certification procedure, to be established and 24 administered by the Office of Tourism, Trade, 25 26 and Economic Development; providing for 27 periodic recertification; abating or reducing funding in specified circumstances; providing a 28 29 maximum number of years for which an amateur sports business may be certified; providing for 30 decertification; providing a penalty for 31

falsifying an application; providing for a tax 1 2 reimbursement agreement and prescribing terms 3 of the agreement; providing for annual claims 4 for reimbursement; providing duties of the 5 Department of Revenue; providing for 6 administration of the program; providing for 7 recordkeeping and submission of an annual report to the Legislature; amending s. 8 9 288.1229, F.S.; providing an additional purpose for which the Office of Tourism, Trade, and 10 Economic Development may authorize a 11 12 direct-support organization to assist the office; providing for the creation of new jobs 13 14 in this state; providing authority to the 15 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services 16 to negotiate agreements with certain land 17 owners for water use in rural areas; creating s. 570.249, F.S.; creating the Agricultural 18 19 Economic Development Program Disaster Loans; creating s. 570.911, F.S.; providing for an 20 equestrian educational sports program at 4-year 21 state universities; providing an effective 22 23 date. 24 25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subsection (6) of section 212.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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212.20 Funds collected, disposition; additional powers of department; operational expense; refund of taxes adjudicated unconstitutionally collected .--

- (6) Distribution of all proceeds under this chapter shall be as follows:
- (f) The proceeds of all other taxes and fees imposed pursuant to this chapter shall be distributed as follows:
- 1. In any fiscal year, the greater of \$500 million, minus an amount equal to 4.6 percent of the proceeds of the taxes collected pursuant to chapter 201, or 5 percent of all other taxes and fees imposed pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited in monthly installments into the General Revenue Fund.
- 2. Two-tenths of one percent shall be transferred to the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund.
- 3. After the distribution under subparagraphs 1. and 2., 9.653 percent of the amount remitted by a sales tax dealer located within a participating county pursuant to s. 218.61 shall be transferred into the Local Government Half-cent Sales Tax Clearing Trust Fund.
- 4. After the distribution under subparagraphs 1., 2., and 3., 0.054 percent shall be transferred to the Local Government Half-cent Sales Tax Clearing Trust Fund and distributed pursuant to s. 218.65.
 - 5. Of the remaining proceeds:
- a. Beginning July 1, 1992, \$166,667 shall be distributed monthly by the department to each applicant that has been certified as a "facility for a new professional sports franchise" or a "facility for a retained professional sports franchise" pursuant to s. 288.1162 and \$41,667 shall be distributed monthly by the department to each applicant that has been certified as a "new spring training franchise facility" pursuant to s. 288.1162. Distributions shall begin 60 days following such certification and shall continue for 30

years. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to allow an applicant certified pursuant to s. 288.1162 to receive more in distributions than actually expended by the applicant for the public purposes provided for in s. 288.1162(7). However, a certified applicant shall receive distributions up to the maximum amount allowable and undistributed under this section for additional renovations and improvements to the facility for the franchise without additional certification.

- b. Beginning 30 days after notice by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to the Department of Revenue that an applicant has been certified as the professional golf hall of fame pursuant to s. 288.1168 and is open to the public, \$166,667 shall be distributed monthly, for up to 300 months, to the applicant.
- c. Beginning 30 days after notice by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development Department of Commerce to the Department of Revenue that the applicant has been certified as the International Game Fish Association World Center facility pursuant to s. 288.1169, and the facility is open to the public, \$83,333 shall be distributed monthly, for up to 168 180 months, to the applicant. This distribution is subject to reduction pursuant to s. 288.1169. A lump sum payment of \$999,996 shall be made, after certification and before July 1, 2000.
- d. Beginning 12 months after notice by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development that an applicant has been certified as a certified sports industry economic development project, a monthly sales tax reimbursement payment in the amount set forth in the notice by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall be distributed to the applicant until the certification expires or notice is

received from the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic

Development of a change in the applicant's certification

status or in the certified monthly payment amount. The amount
of the monthly sales tax reimbursement distribution shall be
adjusted beginning 30 days after notice by the Office of

Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development that the applicant is
to receive a reduced or increased sales tax reimbursement
payment.

6. All other proceeds shall remain with the General Revenue Fund.

Section 2. Paragraph (k) of subsection (7) of section 213.053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.--

- (7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the department may provide:
- (k) Payment information relative to chapters 199, 201, 212, 220, and 221 to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development in its administration of the tax refund program for qualified defense contractors authorized by s. 288.1045, and the tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses authorized by s. 288.106, and the sales tax reimbursement program for certified sports industry economic development projects authorized by s. 288.113.

Section 3. Section 288.113, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

288.113 Tax reimbursement program for certified sports industry economic development projects.--

(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.--The
Legislature finds that attracting, retaining, and providing
favorable conditions for the growth of certified sports
industry economic development projects provides high-quality

employment opportunities for residents of the state, increases tourism, and enhances the economic foundations of the state.

It is the policy of the state to encourage the growth of high-value-added employment to the economic base by providing a sales tax reimbursement to certified sports industry economic development projects that create new employment opportunities and generate new sales tax dollars by expanding businesses within the state or by bringing new businesses to the state.

- (2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section:
- (a) "Certified sports industry economic development project" or "project" means any amateur sports business that develops, operates, or both develops and operates a project that attracts and retains multiyear amateur sporting events that generate new sales taxes for the state, has submitted a properly completed application to the Office of Tourism,

 Trade, and Economic Development, and has subsequently been certified by that office as a certified sports industry economic development project. The project may not be one that is located in Florida prior to the effective date of this act.
- (b) "Sales tax reimbursement" means the monthly amount to be distributed through a reimbursement to a certified sports industry economic development project pursuant to s. 212.20. Such amount shall be determined by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development as provided in this section.
 - (3) AMATEUR SPORTS BUSINESS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY.--
- (a) Any amateur sports business that promotes

 multiyear amateur sports industry economic development

 activities in the state may submit to the Office of Tourism,

 Trade, and Economic Development an application for approval as

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a certified sports industry economic development project for the purpose of receiving a sales tax reimbursement on new sales taxes generated by increased new business and tourism activity directly attributable to the proposed amateur sports industry economic development project.

- (b) The number of certified sports industry economic development projects shall not exceed three. However, prior to June 30, 2005, the number of certified sports industry economic development projects shall not exceed one, and prior to such date, the total appropriation for the project shall not exceed \$2 million.
- (4) SALES TAX REIMBURSEMENT AND AUTHORIZED AMOUNT. -- Pursuant to s. 212.20, each certified sports industry economic development project shall be eligible for a monthly distribution of its sales tax reimbursement in the amount determined by its sales tax reimbursement agreement with the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development. The amount shall be based on new sales tax revenues generated under chapter 212 by increased new business and tourism activity directly attributable to the project as determined using the sports economic impact model and, subject to other restrictions, returns 50 percent of that amount to the project. The total amount of sales tax reimbursement for all fiscal years estimated for each project shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost of the project as determined by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development in the certification process set forth in subsection (6). annualized amount of the monthly distribution shall be calculated by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development and specified in the applicant's sales tax reimbursement agreement. Annual payment amounts shall be no

less than \$500,000 and no more than \$2 million, unless the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development reduces payments below \$500,000 under its authority to decertify a project as discussed in subsection (6).

- (5) AUTHORIZED USE OF SALES TAX REIMBURSEMENT

 PAYMENTS.--After entering into a sales tax reimbursement

 agreement under subsection (7), a certified sports industry

 economic development project may receive a sales tax

 reimbursement for any of the following:
- (a) Developing and implementing any component of the project's sports events and activities.
- (b) Constructing, reconstructing, renovating, furnishing, equipping, or operating the project's facilities or events.
- (c) Pledging payments or debt service on, or funding, debt service reserve funds, arbitrage rebate obligations, or other amounts payable with respect to bonds for the project's activities and facilities.
- (d) Paying the cost of relocating the project's corporate headquarters into the state.
- (6) CERTIFICATION, RECERTIFICATION, AND DECERTIFICATION PROCEDURE. --
- (a) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic

 Development shall establish a certification process by which a proposed amateur sports industry economic development project may be approved by the office as a certified sports industry economic development project that is eligible to receive economic development incentives in the form of a sales tax reimbursement of a percentage of new sales taxes that have been generated and remitted to the state as a result of the certified sports industry economic development project.

(b) Before certifying an applicant under this subsection, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development must determine that the applicant has:

1. Completed an independent analysis or study, verified by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, which demonstrates that the proposed amateur sports industry economic development project will generate a minimum of \$1 million annually in new sales tax revenues over a multiyear period.

- 2. Received commitments for amateur sports activities which demonstrate that the proposed amateur sports economic development project will bring to this state on a multiyear basis new proposed amateur sports economic development project activities that will generate a minimum of \$1 million in new sales tax revenues annually, as verified by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.
- 3. Demonstrated that the applicant has provided, is capable of providing, or has financial or other commitments to provide more than one-half of the costs incurred in or related to the development of the proposed amateur sports industry economic development project activity.
- (c) An amateur sports business that has previously been certified under this section and has received a sales tax reimbursement under that certification is ineligible for additional certification.
- (d) Upon determining that a proposed amateur sports industry economic development project meets the established criteria for approval as a certified sports industry economic development project and qualifies for a sales tax reimbursement, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall issue to the applicant a letter of

certification that stipulates the terms of the sales tax reimbursement agreement and the penalties for failing to comply with those terms.

- (e) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic

 Development shall deny the application of an amateur sports

 business to be a certified sports industry economic

 development project if the office determines that the proposed project does not meet the established criteria for approval.
- Development shall develop a standardized form for an amateur sports business to complete in applying for certification as a certified sports industry economic development project. The application shall include, but is not limited to, relevant information on employment and job creation, proposed budgets, contracts for multiyear events and projects, project financing, and other information requested by the office. The application may be distributed to applicants by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, and all completed applications shall be processed by the office.
- reimbursement under this section is valid for 10 years.

 Subsequent to the initial certification period, the certified sports industry economic development project is eligible for two periods of recertification, each of which is valid for 5 years. A project must request recertification 12 months before the expiration of the certificate.
- (h) A certified sports industry economic development project may request recertification after the initial certification period to be requalified for certification as a certified sports industry economic development project for a period not to exceed 20 years.

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(i) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall recertify, before the end of the first 10-year period, that the certified sports industry economic development project is operational and that the project is meeting the minimum projections for sales tax revenues as required at the time of original certification. If the project is not recertified during this 10-year review period as meeting the minimum projections, funding shall be adjusted until certification criteria are met. If the project fails to generate annual sales tax revenues pursuant to its sales tax reimbursement agreement with the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, the amount of revenues distributed to the project under s. 212.20(6)(f)5.d. shall be reduced to an amount equal to a pro-rata amount of the taxes collected times 50 percent. If, for 2 consecutive years, the amount of tax revenues collected falls below a minimum of \$1 million per year, the project may be decertified at the discretion of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development. Such a reduction shall remain in effect until the sales tax revenues generated by the project in a 12-month period equal or exceed \$1 million.

(j) A project may be decertified if the Office of
Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development determines that the
amateur sports business can no longer maintain its economic
development activities in this state. If the project is no
longer in existence, or is no longer viable, as determined by
the project's sales tax reimbursement agreement with the
Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, or if the
project has the certificate for purposes other than those
authorized by this section and chapter 212, the Office of
Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall notify the

Department of Revenue to suspend payment for a period of 6 months until the project is either in compliance with the sales tax reimbursement agreement or is determined to be in default. In addition to other penalties imposed by law, any person who knowingly and willfully falsifies an application for purposes other than those authorized by this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

- (k) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic

 Development shall provide written notification to the

 Department of Revenue of all certifications, recertifications,

 and decertifications of projects and of the sales tax

 reimbursement distribution amount each project is entitled to
 receive.
- (1) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic

 Development shall develop rules for the receipt and processing of applications for funding pursuant to s. 212.20.
 - (7) SALES TAX REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT TERMS.--
- (a) In order to qualify for sales tax reimbursement from the state, each certified sports industry economic development project must enter into a written agreement with the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development which specifies, at a minimum:
- 1. The total number of full-time-equivalent jobs created in or transferred to the state as a direct result of the project, the average wage paid for those jobs, the criteria that will apply to measuring the achievement of these terms during the effective period of the agreement, and a time schedule or plan for when such jobs will be in place and operative in the state.

- 2. The maximum amount of new sales taxes estimated to be generated as a result of the project, the maximum amount of sales tax reimbursement that the project is eligible to receive, and the maximum amount of sales tax reimbursement that the project is requesting.
- 3. The budgets, financing, projections, and cost estimates for the sports activities and projects for which reimbursement is sought.
- (b) Compliance with the terms and conditions of the sales tax reimbursement agreement is a condition precedent for receiving a sales tax reimbursement each year. The terms and time frame of the agreement shall be commensurate with the duration of the certification period. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the sales tax reimbursement agreement shall result in an immediate review by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development of the activities of the project.
- (c) The sales tax reimbursement shall not exceed 50 percent of the total project costs, amortized over a period of years not to exceed 20.
- (d) Sales tax reimbursement may be provided through direct payment or other means of payment to the certified sports industry economic development project, as determined in the sales tax reimbursement agreement with the approval of the Department of Revenue.
 - (8) ADMINISTRATION. --
- (a) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic

 Development may verify information provided in any claim for sales tax reimbursement under this section, including information regarding employment and wage levels or the payment of taxes under chapter 212 to the appropriate agency,

including the Department of Revenue, the Department of Labor and Employment Security, or the appropriate local government or authority.

- (b) To facilitate the process of monitoring and auditing applications made under this program, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development may request information necessary for determining a project's compliance with this section from the Department of Revenue, the Department of Labor and Employment Security, or any local government or authority. These governmental entities shall provide assistance in the areas within their scope of responsibilities.
- (c) The Department of Revenue may audit as provided in s. 213.34 to verify that the distributions pursuant to this section have been expended as required in this section.
- (9) RELATIONSHIP OF SALES TAX REIMBURSEMENTS TO SPORTS
 INDUSTRY GROWTH; REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE.--Beginning January
 1, 2001, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
 Development shall maintain records based on information
 provided on taxpayer applications for certified sports
 industry economic development projects that receive sales tax
 reimbursements. These records must include a statement of the
 percentage of the overall new economic impact generated by
 certified sports industry economic development projects and
 the amount of funds annually reimbursed to such projects. In
 addition, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
 Development shall maintain data showing the annual growth in
 Florida-based amateur sports industry businesses and the
 number of persons employed and wages paid by such businesses.
 The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall

report this information to the Legislature annually, no later than December 1.

Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 288.1229, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.1229 Promotion and development of sports-related industries and amateur athletics; direct-support organization; powers and duties.--

- (1) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development may authorize a direct-support organization to assist the office in:
- (a) The promotion and development of the sports industry and related industries for the purpose of improving the economic presence of these industries in Florida.
- (b) The promotion of amateur athletic participation for the citizens of Florida and the promotion of Florida as a host for national and international amateur athletic competitions for the purpose of encouraging and increasing the direct and ancillary economic benefits of amateur athletic events and competitions.
- (c) The attraction of sports industry economic development projects to this state for the purposes set forth in paragraphs (a) and (b), as well as for the purposes of increasing national and international media promotions and attention, promoting the quality of life in the state, and promoting tourism, which will have a positive effect on expanding the tax base as well as creating new jobs in the state.

Section 5. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer
Services is authorized to negotiate agreements with landowners
for water supply in rural areas, provided that:

(1) The water to be supplied is currently available to 1 property owned or controlled by the department; and 2 3 The intended use and quantity are not inconsistent 4 with any permit required under part II of chapter 373, Florida 5 Statutes, for the source of supply in effect at the time of 6 the agreement. 7 Section 6. Section 570.249, Florida Statutes, is 8 created to read: 9 570.249 Agricultural Economic Development Program Disaster Loans.--10 (1) USE OF LOAN FUNDS.--Loan funds to agricultural 11 12 producers who have experienced crop losses from a natural disaster or a socio-economic condition or event may be used to 13 14 restore or replace essential physical property, such as animals, fences, equipment, structural production facilities, 15 or orchard trees; pay all or part of production costs 16 17 associated with the disaster year; pay essential family living expenses; and restructure farm debts. Funds may be issued as 18 19 direct loans, or as loan guarantees for up to 90 percent of 20 the total loan, in amounts not less than \$30,000 nor more than \$250,000. Applicants must provide at least 10 percent equity. 21 (2) ELIGIBLE CROPS.--Crops eligible for the emergency 22 23 loan program include: (a) Crops grown for human consumption; 24 25 (b) Crops planted and grown for livestock consumption, including, but not limited to, grain, seed, and forage crops; 26 (c) Crops grown for fiber, except for trees; and 27 28 (d) Speciality crops, such as aquacultural, 29 floricultural, or ornamental nursery crops; Christmas trees; 30 turf for sod; industrial crops; and seed crops used to produce 31 eligible crops.

(3) FARMING INFORMATION.--A borrower must keep complete and acceptable farm records and present them as proof of production levels. A borrower must operate in accordance with a farm plan that he or she develops and that is approved by the commissioner. A borrower may be required to participate in a financial management training program and obtain crop insurance.

- (4) LOAN APPLICATION.--In order to qualify for a loan under this section an applicant must submit an application to the committee within 30 days after the natural disaster or socio-economic condition or event occurs or the date the crop damage becomes apparent. An applicant must be a citizen of the United States, a bona fide resident of the state, and, together with the applicant's spouse and their dependents, have a total net worth of less than the \$100,000. The value of any residental homestead owned by the applicant must not be included in determining the applicant's net worth. An applicant must also demonstrate the need for economic assistance, be worthy of credit according to standards established by the commissioner, prove that he or she cannot obtain commercial credit, and demonstrate that he or she has the ability to repay the loan.
- (5) LOAN SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.--All loans must be fully collateralized. A first lien is required on all property or product acquired, produced, or refinanced with loan funds. The specific type of collateral required may vary depending upon the loan purpose, repayment ability, and the particular circumstances of the applicant.
- (6) LOAN REPAYMENT.--Repayment of loans for crops, livestock, and non-real-estate losses shall normally be repaid within 7 years, or, in special circumstances within 20 years.

Loans for physical losses to real estate and buildings shall not exceed 30 years. Borrowers are expected to return to conventional credit sources when they are financially able. Loans are a temporary source of credit and borrowers must be reviewed periodically to determine whether they can return to conventional credit. Section 7. Section 570.911, Florida Statutes, is created to read: 570.911 Equestrian educational sports program.--The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall establish an equestrian educational sports program with one or more accredited 4-year state universities designed to give student riders the opportunity to learn, compete, and succeed at the collegiate level, while at the same time promoting the state's multi-billion dollar equine industry. Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.