

By Senator Gruters

23-01604-22

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to agreements with professional sports  
3           teams; creating s. 286.31, F.S.; defining the terms  
4           "professional sports team" and "sporting event";  
5           prohibiting a governmental entity from entering into  
6           certain agreements with a professional sports team  
7           unless the agreement includes specified provisions;  
8           requiring a governmental entity that enters into such  
9           an agreement to strictly enforce such provisions;  
10          authorizing the Attorney General to intervene to  
11          enforce such provisions under certain circumstances;  
12          providing an effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15  
16           Section 1. Section 286.31, Florida Statutes, is created to  
17           read:

18           286.31 Agreements with professional sports teams.—

19           (1) DEFINITIONS.—

20           (a) "Professional sports team" means:

21           1. A team organized in this state that is a member of the  
22           National League or the American League of Major League Baseball,  
23           the National Basketball Association, the National Football  
24           League, the National Hockey League, Major League Soccer, the  
25           American Hockey League, the East Coast Hockey League, the  
26           American Association of Independent Professional Baseball, the  
27           Atlantic League of Professional Baseball, Minor League Baseball,  
28           the National Basketball Association G League, the National  
29           Women's Soccer League, the Major Arena Soccer League, the United

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Soccer League, or the Women's National Basketball Association;

2. A person hosting a motorsports racing event sanctioned by the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR), IndyCar, or another nationally recognized motorsports racing association at a venue in this state with a permanent seating capacity of at least 75,000; or

3. An organization hosting a Professional Golfers' Association event.

(b) "Sporting event" means any preseason, regular season, or postseason game or event of a professional sports team.

(2) PROVISIONS REQUIRED IN CERTAIN AGREEMENTS.—Beginning July 1, 2022, a governmental entity may not enter into an agreement with a professional sports team that requires a financial commitment by the state or a governmental entity unless the agreement includes:

(a) A written verification that the professional sports team will play the United States national anthem at the beginning of each sporting event held at the team's home venue or other facility controlled by the team for the event.

(b) A provision providing that any failure to comply with the written verification required by paragraph (a):

1. Constitutes a default of the agreement.

2. Immediately subjects the team to any penalty the agreement authorizes for default, which may include requiring the team to repay any money paid to the team by the state or any governmental entity or classifying the team as ineligible to receive further money under the agreement.

3. May subject the team to a prohibition on contracting with the state.

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59       (3) STRICT ADHERENCE TO DEFAULT PROVISION.-

60       (a) A governmental entity that enters into an agreement  
61 with a professional sports team shall strictly enforce the  
62 provision required under paragraph (2) (b).

63       (b) If a governmental entity fails to timely enforce the  
64 provision required under paragraph (2) (b), the Attorney General  
65 may intervene to enforce the provision.

66       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.