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**HARRIS COUNTY  
HOUSTON  
SPORTS AUTHORITY**

**LEGAL  
DOCUMENTS**



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House Bill No. 92 (Legislative Session 75)

H.B. No. 92

**AN ACT**

relating to the financing of sports and community venues and related infrastructure; authorizing the imposition of certain local taxes and the issuance of local bonds; providing penalties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle C, Title 10, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Chapters 334 and 335 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 334. SPORTS AND COMMUNITY VENUES

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 334.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

- (1) "Approved venue project" means a sports and community venue project that has been approved under this chapter by the voters of a municipality or county.
- (2) "Governing body" means the governing body of a municipality or the commissioners court of a county.
- (3) "Related infrastructure" includes any store, restaurant, on-site hotel, concession, automobile parking facility, area transportation facility, road, street, water or sewer facility, park, or other on-site or off-site improvement that relates to and enhances the use, value, or appeal of a venue, including areas adjacent to the venue, and any other expenditure reasonably necessary to construct, improve, renovate, or expand a venue, including an expenditure for environmental remediation.
- (4) "Venue" means:
  - (A) an arena, coliseum, stadium, or other type of area or facility:
    - (i) that is used or is planned for use for one or more professional or amateur sports events, community events, or other sports events, including rodeos, livestock shows, agricultural expositions, promotional events, and other civic or charitable events; and
    - (ii) for which a fee for admission to the events is charged or is planned to be charged;
    - (B) a convention center facility or related improvement such as a convention center, civic center, civic center building, civic center hotel, auditorium, theater, opera house, music hall, exhibition hall, rehearsal hall, park, zoological park,

museum, aquarium, or plaza located in the vicinity of a convention center or facility owned by a municipality or a county;

(C) a tourist development area along an inland waterway; and

(D) any other economic development project authorized by other law.

(5) "Sports and community venue project" or "venue project" means a venue and related infrastructure that is planned, acquired, established, developed, constructed, or renovated under this chapter.

Sec. 334.002. APPLICATION TO CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES. This chapter applies to a municipality with a population of more than 1.2 million and to a county with a population of more than 2.2 million only if the municipality and county create a sports and community venue district under Chapter 335 and only to the extent the use of this chapter by the district is necessary or convenient for the creation or operation of the district to the fullest extent authorized by Chapter 335.

Sec. 334.003. APPLICATION TO VENUE CONSTRUCTED UNDER OTHER LAW. A county or municipality may use this chapter for a venue project relating to a venue and related infrastructure planned, acquired, established, developed, constructed, or renovated under other law, including Section 4B, Development Corporation Act of 1979 (Article 5190.6, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), or Subchapter E, Chapter 451, Transportation Code.

Sec. 334.004. OTHER USES OF VENUE PERMITTED. This chapter does not prohibit the use of a venue for an event that is not related to a purpose described by Section 334.001, such as a community-related event.

Sec. 334.005. SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE. (a) The legislature expressly finds and determines that:

(1) the presence of a professional sports team in an approved venue project built or renovated under this chapter provides a unique value to the municipality or county that built or renovated the project that cannot be adequately valued in money; and

(2) the municipality or county that built or renovated the approved venue project would suffer irreparable injury if a professional sports team breaches its obligation to play its home games in the approved venue project as required by an agreement between the sports team and the municipality or county.

(b) An agreement described by Subsection (a)(2) shall be enforceable by specific performance in the courts of this state. A waiver of this remedy is contrary to public policy and is unenforceable and void.

Sec. 334.006. PROHIBITION AGAINST TAX EXPANSION. In a county with a population of over 2.8 million, no tax on real property or on personal property may be used for the operation, maintenance, renovation, or repair of any venue authorized by an election on November 5, 1996, and constructed after that date.

[Sections 334.007-334.020 reserved for expansion]

#### SUBCHAPTER B. VENUE PROJECTS

Sec. 334.021. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROJECT. (a) A county or municipality by resolution may provide for the planning, acquisition, establishment,

