STATE OF NEW YORK

3096

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 27, 2023

Introduced by Sen. BRISPORT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to the ownership of a professional sports team by a local or state government

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section 26 to read as follows:

§ 26. Ownership in a professional sports team by a local or state government. 1. (a) As used in this section the term "facility" means:

(i) stadiums, arenas or other structures for the holding of athletic contests and other events and gatherings, including, without limitation, baseball, football and automobile racing; musical, dramatic and other artistic, cultural or social events, public meetings; and

(ii) other public events and practice fields, or other areas where professional sports teams and other sports teams may practice or perform.

(b) "Facility" shall also mean and include the following types of property if that property is related to or located near an item listed in paragraph (a) of this subdivision:

(i) offices, parking lots and garages, access roads, streets, intersections, highway interchanges, pedestrian walkways, tunnels, and bridges, transportation facilities, monuments, restaurants, stores, and other facilities providing goods and services to persons attending meetings, contests, gatherings or events at the facility;

(ii) other recreation areas and recreational facilities;

(iii) other property or structures including all fixtures, furnishings, and appurtenances normally associated with such facilities; and

(iv) landscaping, parks, and open spaces.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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2. An owner of a professional sports team that for most of its home games uses a facility that is (a) owned by a unit of local government; or (b) supported by a unit of local government with taxes or tax reductions shall not cease playing most of its home games at the facility and begin playing most of its home games elsewhere unless the owner:

(i) enters into an agreement with the unit of local government that owns the facility or supports the facility with taxes or tax reductions permitting the team to play most of its home games elsewhere; or

(ii) gives the unit of local government that owns the facility or supports the facility with taxes or tax reductions in which the facility is located not less than six months' advance notice of the owner's intention to cease playing most of its home games at the facility and, during the six months after such notice, gives:

(A) the unit of local government the opportunity to purchase more than fifty percent ownership in the professional sports team;

(B) the unit of local government first refusal to purchase the professional sports team; or

(C) an individual or group of individuals who reside in the area of the facility the opportunity to purchase the team.

3. Any new stadium that receives fifty-one percent or more of its financing from public money shall offer local and state government the opportunity to purchase more than fifty percent ownership in the professional sports team.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.