

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE BILL 3959

By: Echols

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public finance; enacting the Professional Sports Arena Act; requiring Oklahoma Department of Commerce to establish program; providing for collection of certain revenues from out-of-state residents; creating Professional Sports Arena Fund; providing for authorized expenditures; prescribing duties upon Oklahoma Tax Commission; requiring system for collection of revenues; providing for application process; restricting use of revenues; providing for noncodification; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Professional Sports Arena Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 897 of Title 62, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall establish a professional sports arena program to be administered in accordance

1 with this section for the purpose of collection of tax dollars from  
2 out-of-state residents during the performance of professional  
3 basketball for which wages are earned while in Oklahoma, to be  
4 identified, collected, and allocated to a special revolving fund to  
5 be used only for the construction of a new arena, where those  
6 performances take place ensuring the collection of those taxes in  
7 future years.

8 B. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a fund for the  
9 Oklahoma Tax Commission to be designated the "Professional Sports  
10 Arena Fund", to be administered by the Oklahoma Department of  
11 Commerce. The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to  
12 fiscal year limitations, shall accrue interest, and shall consist of  
13 all monies designated for deposit to the fund.

14 C. The fund shall not consist of any taxes collected from wages  
15 other than from out-of-state residents during the performance of  
16 professional basketball for which wages are earned while in  
17 Oklahoma. The Commission shall not identify taxes to be allocated  
18 to the fund from wages from out-of-state residents paid to the state  
19 from other events, such as concerts, performances, or other  
20 professional sports.

21 D. The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall identify all taxes  
22 collected from the wages of out-of-state professional basketball  
23 players, coaches, staff, and teams. The Commission shall deposit in  
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1 the fund all taxes collected from the wages of out-of-state  
2 professional basketball players, coaches, staff, and teams.

3 E. The Department of Commerce shall develop policies and an  
4 application. The Department shall accept an application, after  
5 January 1, 2030, from the city in which a new arena is to be  
6 constructed, and upon review of the application, the Department  
7 shall certify to the Commission that the application has been  
8 approved and that the Commission shall grant the money in the fund  
9 for the approved application.

10 F. No monies from the fund shall be used for anything other  
11 than the construction of a new arena. The fund shall not be  
12 utilized for any other reason except for an approved application by  
13 the Department submitted by the city for the construction of a new  
14 arena. Monies from the fund shall not be used for the maintenance  
15 or renovation of an existing arena.

16 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
17 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
18 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
19 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.  
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