

House Bill 510 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Stephens of the 164th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 34 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 OneGeorgia Authority, so as to provide for the creation of the Georgia Sports Commission
3 Fund; to define certain terms; to provide for gifts and contributions; to provide for a
4 committee to manage such fund; to provide for members; to provide conditions for obtaining
5 grants and loans from such fund; to provide for an accounting; to repeal conflicting laws; and
6 for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 34 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the OneGeorgia
10 Authority, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "50-34-19.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

13 (1) 'Fund' means the fund established pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this
14 Code section.

15 (2) 'Qualified expense' means the expenditure of moneys by a registered sports
16 commission which are used to cover the initial costs of hosting a sporting event or
17 payment of an up-front fee for the privilege of hosting a sporting event.

18 (3) 'Registered sports commission' means a sports commission that has registered with
19 the authority.

20 (4) 'Sports commission' means an organization that shall have bona fide experience in
21 sports marketing, or in attracting, or hosting sporting events and is designated with
22 managing the bid process to attract professional and amateur sporting events to a county,
23 municipality, or consolidated government.

24 (b)(1) There is established as a separate fund of the authority a fund to be known as the
25 Georgia Sports Commission Fund. Funds for the Georgia Sports Commission Fund and
26 for the administration of such fund shall be provided from any source allowable by law.

27 including, without limitation, contributions to the fund from federal, state, local, or
 28 private sources, and any interest or earnings made from the investment of such funds;
 29 provided, however, that the fund shall not receive any part of the proceeds paid to the
 30 state pursuant to funds received by the state pursuant to the settlement of the lawsuit filed
 31 by the state against certain tobacco companies (State of Georgia, et al. v. Philip Morris,
 32 Inc., et al., Civil Action #E-61692, V19/246, Fulton County Superior Court, December
 33 19, 1998).

34 (2) The authority shall maintain the fund separately from any other funds of the
 35 authority. All balances in the fund shall be deposited in interest-bearing accounts.

36 (3)(A) The fund shall be managed by a committee consisting of five voting members
 37 appointed as follows:

38 (i) Three members shall be appointed by the Governor, at least one of whom may be
 39 affiliated with the tourism industry;

40 (ii) One member shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and may be a
 41 current or former athletic coach of a college or university within this state; and

42 (iii) One member shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
 43 and may be a current or former athletic administrator of a public or private college or
 44 university within this state.

45 (B) The commissioner of community affairs and the commissioner of economic
 46 development shall be nonvoting ex officio members of the committee.

47 (4) One or more sports commissions may register with the authority and become a
 48 registered sports commission by certifying to the authority, in a manner to be determined
 49 by the authority, that such sports commission has available a minimum of \$10,000.00 in
 50 cash on hand or readily convertible assets for the payment of qualified expenses.

51 (5) Upon application to the committee, a registered sports commission or a local
 52 government on behalf of a registered sports commission whose activities are deemed of
 53 value to the purposes of the authority may receive from the fund one or more grants for
 54 the purpose of defraying qualified expenses related to those activities; provided, however,
 55 that no funds derived from such grant or grants shall count toward the minimum cash on
 56 hand or readily convertible assets required under paragraph (4) of this subsection; and
 57 provided, further, that the registered sports commission shall demonstrate to the
 58 satisfaction of the committee that the amount of the grant shall be recouped through tax
 59 collections as a result of the event.

60 (6) The authority shall prepare, by September 30 of each year, an accounting of the
 61 moneys received and expended from the fund for the most recently completed fiscal year.
 62 The report shall be made available electronically to the members of the General
 63 Assembly and shall be public record."

64

SECTION 2.

65 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.