

# SB3899



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3899

Introduced 2/6/2026, by Sen. Lakesia Collins

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

Creates the Sports Tourism and Regional Strengthening Act. Contains legislative findings regarding the value of women's professional sports facilities for the economic and cultural development of the State of Illinois. Effective immediately.

LRB104 20600 JDS 34091 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning economic development.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Sports  
5 Tourism and Regional Strengthening Act.

6 Section 3. Legislative findings and declarations. The  
7 General Assembly finds and declares that:

8 (1) As a result of deteriorating infrastructure and  
9 sports facilities in the metropolitan area of Chicago,  
10 there is a shortage of facilities suitable for use by  
11 professional and other sports teams and musical,  
12 theatrical, cultural, and other social organizations. This  
13 shortage is a particularly prevalent issue for female  
14 sports teams, which often have more economic constraints  
15 and have not historically received the same investments as  
16 other professional sports franchises.

17 (2) The creation of modern sports facilities and the  
18 other results contemplated by this Act would stimulate  
19 economic activity in the State of Illinois, including the  
20 creation and maintenance of jobs, the creation of new and  
21 lasting infrastructure and other improvements, and the  
22 attraction and retention of sports and entertainment  
23 events, which generate economic activity.

1           (3) Women's professional sports are growing around the  
2 world, specifically the National Women's Soccer League  
3 (NWSL), which has experienced significant growth in  
4 attendance, viewership, and investment in recent years.  
5 The popularity of women's sports is evidenced by  
6 record-breaking ticket sales, expanded media coverage, and  
7 the entry of new sponsors and investors, reflecting a  
8 growing public demand and commercial potential. In 2024,  
9 the Kansas City Current's \$36 million in revenue was the  
10 most in the NWSL, more than triple the revenue of 8 other  
11 clubs. The gap in revenue is in part because the Current  
12 opened the first purpose-built stadium for women's soccer  
13 in 2024. Supporting the continued growth of professional  
14 women's sports contributes to gender equity, economic  
15 development, and increase participation in women's sports  
16 at all levels.

17           (4) Construction of women's professional sports  
18 facilities will create a number of skilled labor and  
19 construction jobs with good wages and benefits. Such  
20 critical infrastructure will increase the participation of  
21 women and minorities in the building trades, promoting  
22 diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workforce.

23           (5) Professional sports facilities can be magnets for  
24 substantial tourism, resulting in increased retail sales,  
25 hotel and restaurant sales, and entertainment industry  
26 sales, all of which increase jobs and economic growth.

1           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
2           becoming law.