

SENATE, No. 3032

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits professional sports organizations operated utilizing funds primarily received from sovereign wealth funds from hosting sport or athletic events in this State.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/22/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning the conduct of certain professional sport or
2 athletic events conducted in the State of New Jersey and
3 supplementing Title 5 of the Revised Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. A professional sport or athletic organization that is
9 operated utilizing funds primarily received from sovereign wealth
10 funds shall be prohibited from hosting professional sport or athletic
11 events in the State of New Jersey.

12 b. The State, a county, a municipality, or any political
13 subdivision of the State shall not issue any permit or license in
14 conjunction with such an event and shall suspend for a period of at
15 least 30 days but not more than 120 days any operating permit or
16 license held by the host or owner of any property where such an
17 event is held.

18 The Attorney General shall have the authority to monitor and
19 ensure compliance with this section by a county, municipality,
20 political subdivision, organization, property owner, and permit or
21 license holder.

22 c. As used in this section:

23 “Professional sport or athletic event” means an event at which
24 two or more persons participate in sports or athletic events and
25 receive compensation in excess of actual expenses for their
26 participation in such event.

27 “Sovereign wealth fund” means a state-owned investment fund
28 comprised of money generated by a government.

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30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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33 STATEMENT

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35 This bill prohibits sports organizations operated utilizing funds
36 primarily received from sovereign wealth funds from hosting sport
37 or athletic events in this State.

38 A sovereign wealth fund is a state-owned investment fund
39 comprised of money generated by the government, often derived
40 from a country’s surplus reserves. Saudi Arabia’s sovereign wealth
41 fund, the “Public Investment Fund” (PIF), is among the largest
42 sovereign wealth funds in the world and is primarily funded through
43 the country’s large fossil fuels supply and exports.

44 Critics have argued that the PIF is being used to fund various
45 “sportswashing” endeavors. “Sportswashing” is the term used to
46 describe when a government uses sports in an attempt to improve
47 the government’s global image. As a recent New York Times
48 article has pointed out, “Critics of the tournament note that

1 American intelligence officials concluded that Crown Prince
2 Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's de facto leader, ordered the
3 killing and dismemberment of the dissident and Washington Post
4 columnist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018; that 81 men were executed in
5 Saudi Arabia in a single day in March, calling into question the
6 fairness of its criminal justice system; and that Saudi women did
7 not receive permission to drive until 2018 after a longstanding ban
8 and still must receive permission from a male relative to make
9 many decisions in their lives."

10 LIV Golf is a professional golf tour established in 2022 that is
11 funded by the PIF and includes several former PGA Tour golf
12 professionals. LIV Golf has hosted three events this season,
13 including an event at Trump National Golf Club Bedminster in New
14 Jersey.

15 This bill would prohibit a professional sport or athletic
16 organization that is operated utilizing funds primarily received from
17 sovereign wealth funds from hosting professional sport or athletic
18 events in the State of New Jersey. This prohibition would include
19 LIV Golf from hosting future events in New Jersey. The State, a
20 county, a municipality, or any political subdivision of the State is
21 prohibited from issuing any permit or license in conjunction with
22 such an event and must suspend for a period of at least 30 days but
23 not more than 120 days any operating permit or license held by the
24 host or owner of any property where such an event is held.

25 The Attorney General will have the authority to monitor and
26 ensure compliance with this section by a county, municipality,
27 political subdivision, organization, property owner, and permit or
28 license holder.