

[Bond Case Briefs](#)

Municipal Finance Law Since 1971

[Chicago Bears Leave Behind \\$356 Million Stadium Debt as They Ditch City.](#)

For Chicago, it was bad enough that the Bears are planning to abandon the town they've called home for more than a century.

But on top of that, the National Football League team's move will leave behind an unwanted legacy: \$356 million of debt left over from sprucing up Soldier Field, the 101-year-old stadium that the Bears' owners want to ditch for a new one in the suburbs about 30 miles away.

The debt for that rehab, which was finished in 2003, was supposed to be covered by a hotel-room tax placed on visitors. But since the pandemic dealt tourism a hit, the city has been forced to step in with its own revenue — creating a dynamic that's threatening to siphon off tens of millions of dollars as the payments spike until the last of the bonds come due in 2032, when the stadium's marquee tenant hopes to be long gone.

[Continue reading.](#)

Bloomberg CityLab

By Shruti Singh

October 23, 2025

Copyright © 2026 Bond Case Briefs | bondcasebriefs.com