

Legislative Tracker: Sports Betting

The push for legal sports gaming gained traction since the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the New Jersey sports betting case. So far, thirteen states have introduced sports betting bills in the event the Supreme Court rules that federal prohibition on sports wagering is unconstitutional.

State	Bill Number(s)	Bill Synopsis
California	ACA 18	Assembly Member Adam Gray introduced a constitutional amendment that would allow the state to “permit sports wagering only if a change in federal law occurs.” The proposed amendment specifically refers to PASPA’s federal sports betting ban being repealed. If approved, federally recognized tribes interested in sports betting would need to renegotiate their compacts with the Governor. There is no mention of a tax structure in the amendment’s text.
Connecticut	H 6948	In July 2017, Governor Danell Malloy signed a bill that will allow regulators to prepare for legal sports betting, should state and federal law permit. The law designates the Department of Consumer Protection to oversee any sports betting.
Hawaii	H 927	The bill studies the future of gaming in the state, including sports betting. It would establish a commission to analyze the possibility of gaming, as well as would require a preliminary and final report be sent to the Governor and Legislature discussing the commission’s analysis, findings, and recommendations. Lastly, it would appropriate funds to undertake the analysis, including contracts for services.
Kentucky	B 155	The bill would allow for sports betting to be regulated by the state horse racing commission, should PASPA be repealed. The commission would be responsible for establishing a tax structure, licensing requirements and fees, and penalties that would be imposed if a sporting event is tampered.
Maryland	H 989	The bill calls for the establishment of a task force to “study the implementation of sports gaming in the state.” The draft legislation includes the allocation of a “sports gaming license” and authorizes the holder of such license to accept wagers on sporting events if the bettor is at least twenty-one years of age. The proposed legislation would only come into effect if federal law allowed it.
Michigan	H 4060	H 4060 would legalize sports betting via a referendum.

	H 4261	H 4261 would allow for parlay wagering as well as would make the gaming control board responsible for developing a licensing and regulatory program for sports betting agents.
Mississippi	H 967	Passed in March 2017, the bill legalized fantasy sports in the state and also opened the door for sports betting. Modifications made to the state's Gaming Control Act will allow the Gaming Commission to regulate sports betting if PASPA were to be overturned at the federal level.
New Jersey	S 3375	The bill would remove all prohibitions, permits, licenses, and authorizations concerning wagers on professional, collegiate, or amateur sport contests or athletic events.
New York	S 1282	S01282 would authorize gambling on professional sporting and athletic events sponsored by universities or colleges. It also provides that proceeds be applied exclusively to or in support of education.
	A 5438	A05438 would do exactly the same thing.
Oklahoma	S 857	Although rejected by the Oklahoma Joint Committee on Appropriations and Budget, the bill would have allowed tribes to run sports betting. It would have also allowed tribal casinos to install Las Vegas-style roulette and dice games.
Pennsylvania	H 519	Signed by the Governor in October 2017, House Bill 519 defines sports wagering as the "business of accepting wagers on sporting events or on the individual performance statistics of athletes in a sporting event or combination of sporting events by any system or method of wagering, including, but not limited to, exchange wagering, parlays, over-under, money line, pools and straight bets." It also includes a 36-percent tax rate on sports wagering revenue, provides for mobile and online sports betting, and allows for wagering on professional and collegiate sports.
	S 750	Senate Bill 750 includes the same definition and would expand current gaming law to allow sports wagering.
South Carolina	H 3102	The bill would amend South Carolina's constitution to allow sports betting on professional sports, with betting strictly regulated and limited to specific areas. Additionally, the bill states that the revenue generated from betting be used for highway, road, and bridge maintenance, construction, and repair.
West Virginia	H 2751	The bill would allow the state's lottery commission to promote "legislative rules establishing sports betting." It also includes

		language directly challenging PASPA, specifically stating that “federal law prohibiting sports betting in West Virginia is unconstitutional.”
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