iDEA Growth through regulated online gaming
iDevelopment & Economic Association

July 12, 2024
Latest state updates highlighted in green

Priority States: Legislative Sports Betting 2024

State	Current Status	Key Dates	iDEA Engagement / Opportunities
DELAWARE	HB 365 will not advance out of the legislature this session. iDEA testified in support of the bill at a hearing earlier this year, as did other iDEA members. A copy of iDEA's testimony can be found on the Member Portal.	June 30 – Adjournment	iDEA will continue to connect with legislative leaders to promote competition and prepare for the next legislative session.
District of Columbia (Washington DC)	Jeff Ifrah recently met with Peter Alvarado and Antar Johnson of Washington DC's Office of Lottery and Gaming (OLG). A summary of the meeting is included in the following MEMO for iDEA members. We encourage anyone interested in the DC market to contact Jeff Ifrah directly for counsel on licensing requirements and connecting with the DC Lottery. The Sports Wagering Amendment Act was included in the budget approved by the Council this week and it will be signed by the Mayor.	July 15, 2024: Applications for Class C sports wagering licenses open; Current Class A licensees can launch mobile apps District-wide August 15, 2024- Possible launch date for Class C licensees	iDEA is monitoring developments in DC and will relay them to membership.

ILLINOIS	The legislature approved a new progressive tax rate for sports betting operators as part of the state's budget. The Governor is expected to sign the bill. As we reported last week, the legislature ultimately settled on a progressive tax rate which imposes a higher tax rate when higher revenue thresholds are met. The structure is: ● First $30 million in adjusted revenue taxed at 20% ● Revenue between $30-$50 million: 25% Revenue between $50 million and $100 million: 30% ● Revenue $100 million to $200 million: 35% ● Revenue above $200 million: 40% The new budget also imposes a slightly higher tax on VLT operators, which was an unexpected addition to the budget.	May 24 – Legislature set to adjourn, however, they can extend if a budget is not agreed upon.	Jeff Ifrah, authored an op-ed that ran in the largest newspaper covering the Illinois state capital. In the piece iDEA explains the unintended consequences of a tax increase and how it will create less market activity instead of more. Further, we advocate for iGaming as a more reliable revenue stream for the state.
MASSACHUSETTS	State Senator John Keenan's budget amendment to increase the sports betting tax rate to 51% was defeated by the state Senate. Separately, online lottery, which has support in the state House, is not being considered by the Senate.		iDEA has engaged state lawmakers about the amendment to build opposition to the tax increase.
MISSOURI	Proponents of mobile sports betting delivered more than 340,000 signatures so that it can be considered on the ballot this November. Once the signatures are certified by the Secretary of State, the constitutional amendment will be eligible to be voted on by the public. While there is not any announced organized opposition, we understand that some land-based casinos oppose this effort as it would extend the rights to offer gaming beyond the purview of existing licensed riverboat casinos.		IDEA will actively monitor the progress of the ballot initiative and take proactive steps to secure public support for the measure.

Priority States: Legislative iGaming 2024

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Alberta, Canada	This week the Minister Dale Nally, who will oversee the province's move towards a competitive online gaming market confirmed that he intends to follow the Ontario model to create a "free and open" market. Over the coming weeks/months the minister will be engaging in consultation with First Nations (tribes) to understand their concerns and with Ontario to discuss best practices. While no launch date is confirmed Ministry officials have indicated a desire to streamline regulations and licensing to have the market running before the end of the year. They could accept the established Ontario scheme as their model and permit Ontario licensed entities to operate in the Alberta market.	Summer – Expected consultation from stakeholders on best practices. Nov/Dec – Possible launch of market.	IDEA is monitoring developments in Alberta. We are identifying opportunities to engage with the Province and the Minister's office either through the consultation process or directly.
MARYLAND	iDEA is working with local lobbyists and other stakeholders to build support for iGaming going into the 2025 session. On 06/17 we sponsored an event for MD Gov. Wes Moore. At the event we were able to speak directly with the Governor about the opportunity for iGaming to deliver significant tax revenue to the state. The state's fiscal situation will require the legislature to find new revenue streams in 2025. To date, the Senate has resisted turning to expanded gambling and getting support from Senate Majority Leader Ferguson remains a high priority.	August – MD Legislature Conference (Ocean City, MD)	iDEA is using the Summer months to evaluate the Maryland opportunity for 2025. Including engagement with the Senate to remove their opposition and identify a champion. We also will continue to work with Vanessa Atterbeary to keep her engaged on the topic and further educate her about tax rates and other costs that he bill last year would have passed on to the regulated industry. We are currently suspending our engagement with Cornerstone (our local lobbying firm), but are negotiating how to engage them over the next several months.

NEW JERSEY	This week, New Jersey lawmakers unveiled a state budget proposal for the 2025 fiscal year that does not include increased internet gaming tax revenue from sports betting and online casinos. Even though the tax increase wasn't included in the budget, given what we have seen in other states, we expect to see continued activity in New Jersey around increasing the tax rate. iDEA will continue to monitor the activity of the New Jersey Legislature. A bill was introduced this week that would raise the tax rate for iGaming and internet sports betting to 30%. According to the Sponsor, S3064, is still being drafted into bill language. While the state is currently experiencing a budget surplus, it is expected to go into deficits in the coming years which is likely the impetus for finding new/increased revenues. We are not aware that this proposal has support from the Governor's office, but we do know that some lawmakers have been floating the idea of a tax increase for the past few months.	December 31, 2024-adjourns	iDEA continues to monitor the New Jersey Legislature.
NEW YORK	iDEA spoke with Sen. Addabbo on 02/21 and he says that the trade union opposition to the bill means that it will not move this year. He has tried to engage with them on their concerns, but they are not willing to negotiate. Rep. Gary Pretlow introduced AB9198 which is an identical bill to Senator Addabbo's iGaming bill. There has been no progress on advancing legislation this session.	April 1 – Budget due	iDEA continues to engage with Addabbo and other lawmakers.

	Senator Addabbo has introduced his iGaming bill. A full breakdown of his proposal can be found on the Member Portal.		