

Legislative Updates: iGaming

State	Current Status	Key Dates	iDEA Engagement / Opportunities
<p>ALBERTA, CAN</p>	<p>Bill 48 has passed paving the way for a competitively run online gambling market and enabling the Minister to move forward with building a regulatory framework.</p> <p>Alberta has been undergoing consultation with industry stakeholders and indigenous groups on regulatory structure. You can learn more about the process and how to participate by visiting this link.</p> <p>They're aiming for market to launch in "early 2026."</p>		<p>iDEA will continue to monitor the developments in Alberta, and will be engaging with the regulator throughout the rulemaking process.</p>
<p>MARYLAND</p>	<p>The Legislature adjourned without addressing iGaming. The budget does include an increase in the sports betting tax rate from 15% to 20%; a compromise from the proposed 30% rate.</p> <p>The state still faces budget issues and lawmakers are discussing coming back later this year for a special session; presenting an opportunity for iGaming to resurface as a budget solution.</p>	<p>Adjourned – 4/07/25</p>	<p>We remain engaged with lawmakers to monitor the possibility of a special session.</p> <p>We attended an event on 06/10 hosted by Senator Ron Watson, who has been a champion for iGaming. We were able to discuss the issue with several lawmakers and political influencers who were in attendance.</p>
<p>MASS</p>	<p>On 6/23, MA Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure held a hearing that included two iGaming bills (S.235 and H.332). Archived video of hearing here.</p> <p>Based on our intel, it's not likely the bills will advance this session; however, the state is facing budgetary issues and iGaming is being tee'd up as a revenue solution for later this year or next year's budget.</p>		<p>iDEA submitted written testimony and testified remotely at the hearing.</p> <p>We testified in support of the bill, but consistent with our position in other jurisdictions, encouraging more market participation by increasing tethered and untethered options.</p>

	<p>Key aspects of the bills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5m license fee (5-yr term), renewal fee \$5m • Fees for platform providers TBD by Gaming Commission • Temporary licensure (for immediate commencement) available to qualified entities for \$1m • No information on licensing of suppliers • 20% on AGR (includes full promo deductibility in year 1, but phases out bases on % of total wagers per operator) • 10 total market access points = 2 per each of the 3 casinos + 4 untethered licenses • Live dealer permitted, not required to be hosted in-state 		
NEW JERSEY	<p>Lawmakers settled on a compromise tax increase for both sports betting and iGaming, raising them both to 19.75%. This tax change will be included in the state budget which is expected to be approved on 06/27/25.</p> <p>More information on the member portal.</p>	June 27: Budget Vote	<p>iDEA has been very active pushing back against the tax increases.</p> <p>Over the past several weeks an op-ed by Jeff Ifrah was published in a prominent state publication; we launched a targeted ad campaign linking to a dedicated landing page on our website; and a direct email campaign to state lawmakers. We heard directly from lawmakers and stakeholders that our messaging had an impact.</p>
NEW YORK	<p>The session has concluded and as expected the iGaming bills did not advance.</p> <p>The legislature did pass a sweepstakes prohibition bill. The bill will be transmitted to the Governor for signature or veto in the coming weeks. Once she has the bill, she has 30 days to act.</p>	Adjourned – 6/13/25	<p>iDEA continues to monitor developments and continues to engage with key lawmakers.</p> <p>We spoke with Senator Addabbo earlier this week and he had not indication whether the governor would sign the sweepstakes bill.</p>

<p>OHIO</p>	<p>House and Senate leaders finalized their budget and it did not include any gaming related items. iGaming was not included, neither was VLT expansion, both issues were subject to hearing in the past month.</p> <p>Also notable is that the Governor's effort to increase the sports betting tax rate to 40% was also not included in the budget.</p> <p>iGaming is closed for now, we do expect opportunities to elevate these discussions again later in the session as lawmakers discuss property tax relief.</p>	<p>Legislature is year-round</p>	<p>We are actively engaged with lawmakers and other stakeholders in Ohio through our lobbyist and other strong connections to the state.</p> <p>On 7/10 more than a dozen iDEA members met with Senator Nathan Manning, the lead sponsor of legislation, at NCLGS.</p> <p>He appreciates iDEA as a resource and has committed to consider our recommendations for a "sub-bill" of his current iGaming bill.</p> <p>He said that there was not a clear pathway towards the bill being considered as a standalone. However, the state is likely going to address property taxes in the Fall and this could be an area where iGaming serves as a pay-for,</p> <p>iDEA is considering a fly-in this Fall to meet with lawmakers.</p>
<p>VIRGINIA</p>	<p>Virginia state lawmakers will hold an informational hearing on 08/19 to discuss iGaming. The meeting is not tied to a specific bill, but will help set the stage for a legislative discussion when their session begins in Jan 2026.</p> <p>Notable that both Cordish (under development) and Churchill Downs own properties in VA, and will be vocal opponents of iGaming.</p>	<p>Aug 19 – Interim hearing</p>	<p>iDEA has requested to testify at this hearing.</p>

Legislative Updates: Sports Betting

State	Current Status	Key Dates	iDEA Engagement / Opportunities
ALASKA	<p>On Friday, 5/16 the Labor and Commerce committee held a hearing on HB 145. The hearing can be viewed here. This was a “check the box” hearing to ensure that the issue would remain alive until next session. So nothing will happen again on HB 145 until 2026.</p> <p>The bill would authorize up to 10 sports wagering licenses and impose a tax rate of 20%.</p>	May 21: first session adjourned	iDEA will monitor developments and will remain in touch with the bill sponsor.
GEORGIA	<p>An interim study committee has been meeting on potential gambling expansion in the state.</p> <p>The next meeting is planned for later in August and it will focus on sports betting legalization.</p> <p>The study committee website can be found here.</p>	Aug 25 – Next study committee meeting (not yet announced).	iDEA will outreach with the committee and share perspectives about sports wagering legalization at upcoming hearings.
NORTH CAROLINA	<p>State lawmakers continue to work on a long-term budget bill, but have only approved a short term budget stop-gap in the interim. This bill does not include any increases to the sports wagering tax. Earlier this year, the Senate passed their own version of the budget that included doubling the tax rate to 36%.</p> <p>There is still work to do to ensure that a final budget bill that is agreed to by both the House and the Senate will not include an increase.</p>	July 1: Budget deadline; however, typically deadline isn't met; often not finalized until the fall.	<p>iDEA has worked with stakeholders to oppose the House including a tax increase in their budget bill.</p> <p>We sent a letter to legislative leaders and published an op-ed in a local NC media outlet to reinforce our messaging re: tax rate.</p>

<p>OHIO</p>	<p>Last week the Governor called on the Ohio Gaming regulator to ban all prop bets on professional sports. See his full statement here.</p> <p>State lawmakers have pushed back on this idea, and ultimately, under the current law only the sports leagues themselves can ask for a suspension of these types of bets. There is no current indication that the leagues intend to ask for this change.</p> <p>We should anticipate that the Gov will push for this change legislatively, if he can't get it done administratively.</p>	<p>Aug 20 – next commission meeting, where this topic could be discussed.</p>	<p>iDEA has publicly pushed back on the Governors proposal. Our thoughts were published in this article</p> <p>We are conducting outreach to league stakeholders and also to state lawmakers to ensure no momentum behind the Gov's proposal.</p>
<p>WASH D.C.</p>	<p>A provision was included in the DC budget that would clarify the legal status of sports betting in DC, and prohibit lawsuits that seek to exploit an antiquated loss recovery statute.</p> <p>This provision would disqualify a pending lawsuit that seeks to extract hundreds of millions from sports betting operators in DC.</p>	<p>Week of July 28 – DC to vote on budget bill</p>	<p>iDEA sent a letter to the DC Council urging them to include this provision in the budget bill.</p> <p>Jeff spoke with a Washington Post reporter and provided much needed perspective on the situation and explained why this provision was needed. You can read the story here (paywall).</p> <p>You can read the letter here and learn more on the Member Portal.</p>

Regulatory Advocacy

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MARYLAND	<p>Last month the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Commission issued a new amendment to their sports wagering rules which would reduce promotional deductions to 5%.</p> <p>You can view the proposed amendment here.</p> <p>The Commission had indicated that the rules would be published on 08/08 in the MD Register, triggering the 30 day comment window. However it does not appear that the proposed rule was published.</p>	<p>August 22 – next publication date of the MD register.</p>	<p>iDEA has proactively reached out to the Commission to share our concerns with the proposed amendment.</p> <p>They have welcomed a meeting with us, but have suggested that it should take place after the comment window closes.</p>
MISSOURI	<p>The MGC has issued the following notice urging all suppliers to submit license applications:</p> <p><i>The Missouri Gaming Commission encourages all applicants for SW Supplier licenses to submit applications promptly to allow for thorough review and immediate consideration. Prompt attention will allow for temporary licenses to be issued as soon as possible and ensure that SW suppliers have the ability to properly test and certify any necessary systems and/or equipment by the sports wagering launch date of December 1, 2025.</i></p> <p>All of the applications can be found here.</p>	<p>Aug 15 – Untethered licenses awarded.</p> <p>Aug 30 – New effective date of rules</p> <p>Sept 12: Deadline for all other applicants</p> <p>Dec 1 – launch deadline</p>	<p>iDEA will continue to monitor and update</p>