



Transition 2020 - 2021: Sports Betting

NCSL CONTACTS:

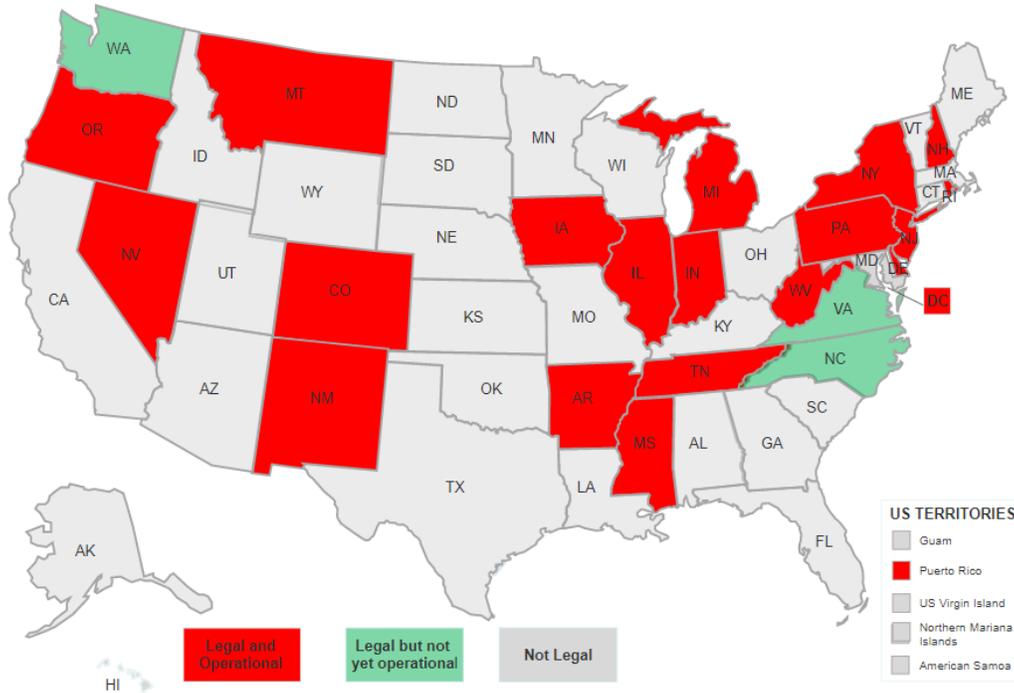
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Issue Description

In 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court declared the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA) unconstitutional, paving the way for legalized sports betting in America. As a result, state legislatures across the country have begun creating innovative and tailored sports betting policies that represent the unique constituencies in each state. As of Oct. 1, 2020, 18 states and the District of Columbia have legalized sports betting and have active operations. Four states have authorized sports betting but do not yet have operational systems and six other states are actively considering legislation. In an open regulatory environment, states have revolutionized the legal sports betting market, and the Supreme Court’s judgement in the PASPA decision illustrates why states provide the best solutions to these complex policy, regulation and law enforcement questions.

The State of Sports Betting





NCSL Position

NCSL supports the ability of each state to choose whether to legalize sports betting and believes that the federal government should recognize the sovereignty of states to allow or prohibit sports betting. In 2018, federal sports betting legislation was introduced that would have required sportsbook operators to use official league data, allow sports governing bodies to request that certain types of wagers be prohibited, and force states to receive approval from the United States Attorney General before they could proceed with implementing their systems. This would directly impede innovation by the states in creating systems that work best for their citizens.

NCSL supports eliminating the immense illegal sports betting market in the United States and believes that this can be achieved by providing more tools to law enforcement and allowing tailored state regulation. States have provided robust protections allowing consumers to safely bet in their legal marketplaces, and Congress should not preempt states' legislative authority to legalize and regulate sports betting. We also ask that federal lawmakers respect state legislatures that choose to maintain their prohibitions on sports betting and other forms of gambling within their state.