

Timeline of Federal Activity on Sports Betting

2018

May 14:

- Supreme Court of the United States declares that the federal ban on sports wagering is unconstitutional. Here is the conclusion of the majority opinion:

The legalization of sports gambling requires an important policy choice, but the choice is not ours to make. Congress can regulate sports gambling directly, but if it elects not to do so, each State is free to act on its own. Our job is to interpret the law Congress has enacted and decide whether it is consistent with the Constitution. PASPA is not. PASPA “regulate[s] state governments’ regulation” of their citizens. The Constitution gives Congress no such power. The judgment of the Third Circuit is reversed.

The court said it reversed the decision of the US Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Full opinion of *Murphy, Governor Of New Jersey v. National Collegiate Athletic Assn.* [here](#).

May 23:

- Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) publishes op-ed in Sports Illustrated stating his [intent to introduce](#) a federal framework for sports betting:

“Congress must act to protect the integrity of sports and guide states as they consider whether to embrace sports betting. To this end, I am working on legislation that will establish clear-cut, minimum standards for sports betting—standards that protect consumers, deter illegal bookmaking, and empower states that opt against the legalization of sports gambling. The ultimate aim of my legislation is to uphold transparency, honesty and principle in the athletic arena.”

August 23:

- Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) [delivers speech](#) on the Senate floor advocating for federal standards to uphold the integrity of sports amid a sharp increase in sports betting.

August 29:

- Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) became the latest member of Congress to put forth specific suggestions for a federal framework for sports betting Wednesday in a memo [provided](#) to ESPN.

"As a New York sports fan -- especially my Yankees and Giants -- and a senator, my priority in the wake of the Murphy v. NCAA decision is making sure the integrity of the games we love is preserved, that young people and those suffering from gambling addiction are not taken advantage of, and that consumers that choose to engage in sports betting are appropriately protected. With the Supreme Court's ruling, it's incumbent on the federal government to take a leadership role and provide the

necessary guidance to prevent uncertainty and confusion for the leagues, state governments, consumers and fans alike."

September 13:

- AGA [responds](#) to Senator Chuck Schumer's call for federal sports betting oversight.

"The casino gaming industry shares Senator Schumer's goal in preserving the integrity of sporting events and providing consumer protections. Federal oversight of sports betting was an abject failure for 26 years only contributing to a thriving illegal market with no consumer protections and safeguards. New federal mandates are a nonstarter."

"The casino industry is working with stakeholders to ensure the proper protections for consumers, and the integrity of bets and sporting contests are included in state policy, universally implemented by all operators in those states, and overseen by effective state and tribal gaming regulators."

September 27:

- AGA [testifies](#) before the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations on a hearing titled "Post-PASPA: An Examination of Sports Betting in America."

December 19:

- Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) introduce the Sports Wagering Market Integrity Act of 2018 or [S. 3792](#).

In summary, the bill would: (1) establish a general prohibition on sports wagering, but permits a state to submit an application to the Department of Justice requesting approval to administer a state sports wagering program, subject to specified minimum standards; (2) establish a Wagering Trust Fund; (3) amend the Wire Act and the Sports Bribery Act to provide civil enforcement of gambling prohibitions; and (4) grant authority to the Department of Health and Human Services to establish and implement programs for the prevention and treatment of gambling addiction.

2019

January 3:

- The 116th Congress convenes, Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) replaces Orrin Hatch.

September 10:

- NCAA confirms talks about pushing federal sport betting legislation [telling ESPN](#):

"We are absolutely supportive of federal regulation. It's fairly daunting to think that every state would have a different set of regulations. Having some minimum standards, we are very supportive of and have been an active proponent of." - NCAA vice president of hearing operations Naima Stevenson Starks

September 11:

- Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) confirmed he is working with Senate Democratic Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) on a sports gambling bill that would provide federal regulation of betting.

Senator Romney [told](#) GamblingCompliance in an exclusive interview that he wants a sports betting bill that will “protect the public.” When asked whether the legislation would be introduced as a joint bill or separately by the two senators, Romney said: “I am looking at his (Schumer’s) bill. He is the one who is leading that effort.”