
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5307

AN ACT CONCERNING SPORTS WAGERING IN THE STATE.

SUMMARY

Under current law, the Department of Consumer Protection commissioner must adopt regulations to regulate wagering on sporting events to the extent allowed under state and federal law. This bill instead specifies she must to do so (1) when federal law is enacted or repealed, or when a federal court decision is issued, affirming a state's authority to regulate sports wagering and (2) to the extent allowed by state law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Sports Gambling

Sports gambling in Connecticut is currently illegal under both federal and state law.

The federal (1) Wire Act prohibits the use of wire communications to wager on any sporting event (18 U.S.C. § 1081 et seq.) and (2) Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act of 1992 (PASPA) prohibits states from legalizing sports gambling (28 U.S.C. § 3701 et seq.). The U.S. Supreme Court is currently deciding the constitutionality of PASPA with a decision expected later this year (*Murphy v. NCAA, et al.* No. 16-476).

Connecticut law, among other things, prohibits risking any money, credit, or other thing of value for gain, which is contingent upon chance. It prohibits any gambling activity in Connecticut unless specifically authorized by law (CGS §§ 53-278a(2) & 53-278b).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 12 (03/16/2018)