SENATE RESOLUTION No. 92

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 2007

Sponsored by:
Senator RAYMOND J. LESNIAK
District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS
Urges the United States Congress to lift the ban on sports wagering.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.
A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to lift
the federal ban on sports wagering.

WHEREAS, Since January 1, 1993, the federal “Professional and
Amateur Sports Protection Act,” 28 U.S.C. §§3701 et seq., has
prohibited states and local governments from authorizing sports
wagering; and

WHEREAS, Under the terms of the federal law, Nevada is the only
state where sports wagering is legally permitted, and this activity
has resulted in great direct and indirect revenues to that state’s
economy; and

WHEREAS, According to the Nevada Gaming Control Board, about
$94.5 million was legally wagered in Nevada on the 2006 Super
Bowl game only, and the 2006 Super Bowl weekend generated
about $102.4 million in non-gaming economic impact as the game
attracted 285,000 visitors to Las Vegas; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that Nevada’s legal sports wagering
represents less than 1% of all sports wagering nationwide; and

WHEREAS, In fact, according to the National Gambling Impact Study
Commission, illegal sports wagering amounts to about $380 billion
each year; and

WHEREAS, The federal sports wagering ban is not effective in curbing
illegal sport gambling, so that lifting the ban on sports wagering
would allow state gaming enforcement agencies to properly
regulate and police this activity; and

WHEREAS, The State of New Jersey would benefit significantly from
an end to the federal ban, as sports wagering at Atlantic City
casinos would be subject to the existing 8% casino gross revenue
tax and the 1.25% investment alternative tax, thereby generating
more income for the State; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the legalization of sports wagering would
enhance Atlantic City as a gaming and tourism destination; now,
therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House respectfully urges the United States Congress to
remove the federal ban on sports wagering.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
Senate President and attested by the Secretary thereof shall be
transmitted to the majority and minority leaders of the United States
Congress, and to each member of Congress elected from New
Jersey.
STATEMENT

This Senate resolution urges the United States Congress to lift the federal ban on sports wagering. Sports wagering is currently illegal under the “Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act,” 28 U.S.C. §§3701 et seq., although when the act took effect in 1993, it grandfathered the states of Nevada, Oregon, Delaware, and Montana, and gave New Jersey one year to enact a law to authorize sports wagering. However, Nevada is currently the only state where sports wagering is legal, regulated, policed, and taxed.

Although sports wagering is illegal under federal law, the prohibition has failed to curb that activity. It is estimated that Americans wager about $380 billion each year on sports alone, and the legal wagers on sporting events placed in Nevada amount to only 1% of that total. By legalizing sports wagering, state gaming enforcement agencies could finally properly regulate and police this illegal activity, and states could also tax it and thereby generate needed tax dollars to alleviate states budget gaps. The legalization of sports wagering would enhance Atlantic City as a gaming and tourism destination.