

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 140**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 28, 2024

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman MICHAEL VENEZIA
District 34 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Amends State Constitution to permit sports wagering through casinos and current or former horse racetracks on all college sport or athletic events.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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1 A **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** proposing to amend Article IV,
2 Section VII, paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the State of New
3 Jersey.

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5 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the
6 General Assembly concurring):

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8 1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of the
9 State of New Jersey is agreed to:

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11 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

12
13 Amend Article IV, Section VII, paragraph 2 to read as follows:

14 2. No gambling of any kind shall be authorized by the
15 Legislature unless the specific kind, restrictions and control thereof
16 have been heretofore submitted to, and authorized by a majority of
17 the votes cast by, the people at a special election or shall hereafter
18 be submitted to, and authorized by a majority of the votes cast
19 thereon by, the legally qualified voters of the State voting at a
20 general election, except that, without any such submission or
21 authorization:

22 A. It shall be lawful for bona fide veterans, charitable,
23 educational, religious or fraternal organizations, civic and service
24 clubs, senior citizen associations or clubs, volunteer fire companies
25 and first-aid or rescue squads to conduct, under such restrictions
26 and control as shall from time to time be prescribed by the
27 Legislature by law, games of chance of, and restricted to, the selling
28 of rights to participate, the awarding of prizes, in the specific kind
29 of game of chance sometimes known as bingo or lotto, played with
30 cards bearing numbers or other designations, 5 or more in one line,
31 the holder covering numbers as objects, similarly numbered, are
32 drawn from a receptacle and the game being won by the person who
33 first covers a previously designated arrangement of numbers on
34 such a card, when the entire net proceeds of such games of chance
35 are to be devoted to educational, charitable, patriotic, religious or
36 public-spirited uses, or to the support of such organizations, in any
37 municipality, in which a majority of the qualified voters, voting
38 thereon, at a general or special election as the submission thereof
39 shall be prescribed by the Legislature by law, shall authorize the
40 conduct of such games of chance therein;

41 B. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize, by law,
42 bona fide veterans, charitable, educational, religious or fraternal
43 organizations, civic and service clubs, senior citizen associations or
44 clubs, volunteer fire companies and first-aid or rescue squads to
45 conduct games of chance of, and restricted to, the selling of rights

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 to participate, and the awarding of prizes, in the specific kinds of
2 games of chance sometimes known as raffles, conducted by the
3 drawing for prizes or by the allotment of prizes by chance, when the
4 entire net proceeds of such games of chance are to be devoted to
5 educational, charitable, patriotic, religious or public-spirited uses,
6 or to the support of such organizations, in any municipality, in
7 which such law shall be adopted by a majority of the qualified
8 voters, voting thereon, at a general or special election as the
9 submission thereof shall be prescribed by law and for the
10 Legislature, from time to time, to restrict and control, by law, the
11 conduct of such games of chance;

12 C. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize the conduct
13 of State lotteries restricted to the selling of rights to participate
14 therein and the awarding of prizes by drawings when the entire net
15 proceeds of any such lottery shall be for State institutions and State
16 aid for education; provided, however, that it shall not be competent
17 for the Legislature to borrow, appropriate or use, under any pretense
18 whatsoever, lottery net proceeds for the confinement, housing,
19 supervision or treatment of, or education programs for, adult
20 criminal offenders or juveniles adjudged delinquent or for the
21 construction, staffing, support, maintenance or operation of an adult
22 or juvenile correctional facility or institution;

23 D. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize by law the
24 establishment and operation, under regulation and control by the
25 State, of gambling houses or casinos within the boundaries, as
26 heretofore established, of the city of Atlantic City, county of
27 Atlantic, and to license and tax such operations and equipment used
28 in connection therewith. Any law authorizing the establishment and
29 operation of such gambling establishments shall provide for the
30 State revenues derived therefrom to be applied solely for the
31 purpose of providing funding for reductions in property taxes,
32 rental, telephone, gas, electric, and municipal utilities charges of
33 eligible senior citizens and disabled residents of the State, and for
34 additional or expanded health services or benefits or transportation
35 services or benefits to eligible senior citizens and disabled
36 residents, in accordance with such formulae as the Legislature shall
37 by law provide. The type and number of such casinos or gambling
38 houses and of the gambling games which may be conducted in any
39 such establishment shall be determined by or pursuant to the terms
40 of the law authorizing the establishment and operation thereof.

41 It shall also be lawful for the Legislature to authorize by law
42 wagering at casinos or gambling houses in Atlantic City on the
43 results of any professional, college, or amateur sport or athletic
44 event **],** except that wagering shall not be permitted on a college
45 sport or athletic event that takes place in New Jersey or on a sport
46 or athletic event in which any New Jersey college team participates
47 regardless of where the event takes place **];**

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1 E. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize, by law, (1)
2 the simultaneous transmission by picture of running and harness
3 horse races conducted at racetracks located within or outside of this
4 State, or both, to gambling houses or casinos in the city of Atlantic
5 City and (2) the specific kind, restrictions and control of wagering
6 at those gambling establishments on the results of those races. The
7 State's share of revenues derived therefrom shall be applied for
8 services to benefit eligible senior citizens as shall be provided by
9 law; and

10 F. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize, by law, the
11 specific kind, restrictions and control of wagering on the results of
12 live or simulcast running and harness horse races conducted within
13 or outside of this State. The State's share of revenues derived
14 therefrom shall be used for such purposes as shall be provided by
15 law.

16 It shall also be lawful for the Legislature to authorize by law
17 wagering at current or former running and harness horse racetracks
18 in this State on the results of any professional, college, or amateur
19 sport or athletic event **】, except that wagering shall not be permitted**
20 **on a college sport or athletic event that takes place in New Jersey or**
21 **on a sport or athletic event in which any New Jersey college team**
22 **participates regardless of where the event takes place**】.****

23 (cf: Art.IV, Sec.VII, par.2; amended effective January 1, 2022)

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25 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally
26 agreed to pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it
27 shall be submitted to the people at the next general election
28 occurring more than three months after the final agreement and
29 shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each
30 county designated by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
31 General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than three
32 months prior to the general election.

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34 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be
35 submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and
36 form:

37 There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at the
38 general election, the following:

39 a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used, a
40 legend which shall immediately precede the question as follows:

41 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus
42 (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are
43 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the
44 square opposite the word "No."

45 b. In every municipality the following question:

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	<p>YES</p>	<p>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PERMIT WAGERING ON ALL COLLEGE SPORT OR ATHLETIC EVENTS</p> <p>Do you approve amending the Constitution to permit wagering through casinos and current or former horse racetracks on all college sport or athletic events?</p> <p>Currently, wagering is prohibited on college sport or athletic events that take place in New Jersey. Wagering is also prohibited on an event in which a team from a college located in New Jersey participates.</p>
	<p>NO</p>	<p>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</p> <p>Currently, the State Constitution prohibits wagering on college sport or athletic events taking place in New Jersey. It also prohibits wagering on an event in which a team from a college located in New Jersey participates.</p> <p>This amendment would allow the Legislature to pass laws permitting wagering on any college sport or athletic event. It would permit wagering even if a team from a college located in New Jersey participates in the competition. It would also permit wagering on a college sporting event that takes place in New Jersey. Such wagering would be permitted only through casinos and current or former horse racetracks.</p>

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STATEMENT

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6 This concurrent resolution proposes to amend the State
 7 Constitution to permit wagering through casinos and current or
 8 former horse racetracks on all collegiate sporting events, including
 9 collegiate sporting events that take place in the State or in which a
 10 team from a college located in New Jersey participates. Currently,
 11 the State Constitution prohibits sports wagering on any collegiate
 12 sporting or athletic event that is held in New Jersey or in which a

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- 1 New Jersey college team participates. Wagering is permitted only
- 2 through casinos and current or former racetracks.