

## Sports Betting: NJ Gov Corzine Intervenes in Federal Lawsuit

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Point-Spreads.com has learned that New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine today announced he would seek to intervene in support of a federal lawsuit filed by state Sen. Raymond Lesniak in an effort to overturn a federal ban on sports betting in New Jersey and 45 other states. The potential implications of this move to the internet gambling sector are enormous not to mention the potential revenue stream to the state via the licensed land based casinos in Atlantic City.

&ldquo;The federal government&rsquo;s prohibition on sports betting for some but not all states is fundamentally unfair,&rdquo; Governor Corzine said. &ldquo;There should be uniformity in the application of federal law. If one state is allowed to legalize betting on sports events, all states should be allowed the same opportunity.&rdquo;

Since 1992, federal law has outlawed wagering on sports except in four states, Nevada, Montana, Oregon and Delaware. Last month, Delaware took advantage of its exemption in the federal law to legalize sports betting and table games at its three horse racing facilities.

Legalized sports betting in Delaware is a cause for concern within the gaming industry in New Jersey because it puts Atlantic City at a competitive disadvantage. Some estimates say as much as \$10 billion could be bet on sports annually in New Jersey if such wagers were legal and could generate \$100 million in tax revenue for the state.

Governor Corzine will seek to join the lawsuit Lesniak filed in March on behalf of himself as a state senator, the Interactive Media Entertainment and Gaming Association and two horse racing groups. The suit asserts that federal law unconstitutionally regulates commerce and discriminates against states where sports betting is forbidden.

&ldquo;Sports betting in the U.S. is unregulated, untaxed and illegal,&rdquo; Lesniak said. &ldquo;Rather than supporting thousands of jobs, economic activity and tourism, the federal ban supports offshore operators and organized crime.&rdquo;

&ldquo;Delaware&rsquo;s entry into sports wagering and table games is a serious threat to the both the casino and horse racing industries in New Jersey,&rdquo; Governor Corzine said. &ldquo;We must do everything in our power to stay competitive. We simply cannot afford to sit back and let neighboring states press an unfair advantage against us anytime, and certainly not in the midst of this global economic crisis.&rdquo;