

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 631

Short Title: Sports Wagering. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Saine, Hardister, and Hawkins (Primary Sponsors).  
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Referred to: Commerce, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of  
the House

April 22, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE AND REGULATE SPORTS WAGERING IN NORTH  
3 CAROLINA.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 18C of the General Statutes is rewritten to add a new Article:

6 "Article 9.

7 "Sports Wagering.

8 **"§ 18C-901. Definitions.**

9 As used in this Article, the following definitions apply:

10 (1) Adjusted gross revenue. – Gross wagering revenue received by an interactive  
11 sports wagering operator from all sports wagers authorized under this Article  
12 minus all of the following with respect to that gross wagering revenue  
13 received under this Article:

- 14 a. All cash or cash equivalents paid out as winnings to registered players.  
15 b. The costs paid by an interactive sports wagering operator for any  
16 personal property distributed to a registered player as a result of a  
17 sports wager.  
18 c. The cash value of any bonuses or promotional credits provided to  
19 registered players that are then returned to an interactive sports  
20 wagering operator in the form of a deposit or wager.  
21 d. Uncollectible receivables, not to exceed four percent (4%) of gross  
22 revenue, except that the Commission may increase that percentage  
23 upon a showing that a higher amount is reasonable.  
24 e. Excise tax payments on sports wagers remitted to the federal  
25 government.

26 (2) Amateur sports. – A sporting competition that is not a professional sport,  
27 collegiate sport, or youth sport. This term includes domestic, international,  
28 and Olympic sporting competitions.

29 (3) Cash equivalent. – An asset convertible to cash for use in connection with  
30 authorized sports wagering that includes all of the following:

- 31 a. Foreign currency and coin.  
32 b. Personal checks and drafts.  
33 c. Digital, crypto, and virtual currencies.



- 1           d.     Online and mobile payment systems that support online money  
2                 transfers.
- 3           e.     Credit cards and debit cards.
- 4           f.     A prepaid access instrument.
- 5           g.     Any other form approved by the Commission.
- 6       (4)   College sports. – An athletic or sporting competition in which at least one  
7                 participant is a team or contestant competing on behalf or under the  
8                 sponsorship of a public or private institution of post-secondary education.
- 9       (5)   Covered services. – Any service that involves the operation, management, or  
10                control of sports wagers authorized by this Article, including the development  
11                or operation of the sports wagering platform and the provision of odds and  
12                line information, excluding the following:
- 13           a.     Payment processing and similar financial services.
- 14           b.     Customer identity, age verification, and geolocation services.
- 15           c.     Streaming or other video and data that does not include odds or line  
16                 information.
- 17           d.     Telecommunications, internet service provider, and other similar  
18                 services not specifically designed for sports wagering.
- 19           e.     Other goods or services not specifically designed for use in connection  
20                 with sports wagering.
- 21       (6)   Electronic sports. – Any video game played competitively for spectators,  
22                 either in-person or via remote connection, in which success principally  
23                 depends upon the superior knowledge, training, experience, and adroitness of  
24                 the participants.
- 25       (7)   Gross wagering revenue. – The total of all cash or cash equivalents received  
26                 by an interactive sports wagering operator as sports wagers authorized under  
27                 this Article.
- 28       (8)   Interactive sports wagering operator. – The holder of an interactive sports  
29                 wagering license issued by the Commission.
- 30       (9)   Key person. – An officer or director of an interactive sports wagering operator  
31                 who is directly involved in the operation, management, or control of sports  
32                 wagering authorized under this Article, or who exercises substantial influence  
33                 or control over the interactive sports wagering operator's sports wagering  
34                 activities.
- 35       (10)  Official league data. – Statistics, results, outcomes, and other data relating to  
36                 a sporting event obtained pursuant to an agreement with the relevant sports  
37                 governing body or an entity expressly authorized by the relevant sports  
38                 governing body to provide such data.
- 39       (11)  Professional sports. – An athletic or sporting competition involving at least  
40                 two competitors who receive compensation for participating in such event.
- 41       (12)  Registered player. – An individual who has established an account with an  
42                 interactive sports wagering operator.
- 43       (13)  Service provider. – A business entity that provides covered services to an  
44                 interactive sports wagering operator and holds a service provider license.
- 45       (14)  Sporting event. – Professional sports, college sports, electronic sports, and  
46                 amateur sports, and any other event approved by the Commission.
- 47       (15)  Sports facility. – A facility that hosts professional sports and has a minimum  
48                 seating capacity of 17,000 people.
- 49       (16)  Sports governing body. – An organization headquartered in the United States  
50                 and proscribes final rules with respect to a sporting event and enforces the  
51                 code of conduct for participants therein.

- 1           (17) Sports wagering brand. – The names, logos, and brands that an interactive  
2 sports wagering operator advertises, promotes, or otherwise holds out to the  
3 public displaying its sports wagering platform.
- 4           (18) Sports wagering platform. – A website, mobile application, or other  
5 interactive platform accessible via the internet, mobile, wireless, or similar  
6 communication technology that a registered player may use to place sports  
7 wagers authorized under this Article.
- 8           (19) Sports wager or sports wagering. – Placing of wagers on any portion of a  
9 sporting event, or on the individual performance statistics of athletes in a  
10 sporting event or combination of sporting events, by any system or method of  
11 wagering, that may include in-person, over the internet through websites, or  
12 mobile devices. The term also includes single-game wagers, teaser wagers,  
13 parlays, over-under, moneyline, pools, exchange wagering, in-game  
14 wagering, in-play wagers, proposition wagers, and straight wagers.
- 15           (20) Tier one sports wager. – A sports wager that is determined solely by the final  
16 score or final outcome of the sporting event and is placed before the sporting  
17 event has begun.
- 18           (21) Tier two sports wager. – Any sports wager that is not a tier one sports wager.
- 19           (22) Tribal gaming enterprise. – The business entity established by a federally  
20 recognized Indian tribe that is authorized to conduct Class III games, as  
21 defined by the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, 25 U.S.C. § 2701 et  
22 seq., in this State and any technology and sports wagering brand partners of  
23 that business entity.
- 24           (23) Youth sports. – An event in which the majority of participants are under the  
25 age of 18 or are competing on behalf or under the sponsorship of one or more  
26 public or private preschool, elementary, middle, or secondary schools. The  
27 term does not include professional sports or events that occur under the  
28 sponsorship or oversight of national or international athletic bodies that are  
29 not educational institutions and that include participants both over and under  
30 the age of 18.

31 **§ 18C-902. Authorization of sports wagering generally.**

- 32           (a) Notwithstanding any provision of Article 37 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes,  
33 sports wagering as authorized by this Article shall not be considered unlawful.
- 34           (b) Nothing in this Article shall apply to any of the following:
- 35               (1) Pari-mutuel sports wagering on horse racing as authorized by G.S. 14-292.2.
- 36               (2) Fantasy or simulated games or contests in which one or more participants  
37 compete against each other and winning outcomes reflect the relative  
38 knowledge and skill of the participants and are determined predominantly by  
39 accumulated statistical results of the performance of individuals or athletes.
- 40           (c) Nothing in this Article shall authorize any of the following:
- 41               (1) Sports wagering involving youth sports.
- 42               (2) Sports wagering on the occurrence of any of the following:
- 43                   a. Injuries.
- 44                   b. Penalties.
- 45                   c. The outcome of disciplinary proceedings against a participant in a  
46 sporting event.
- 47                   d. The outcome of replay reviews.
- 48               (3) The Commission serving as an operator of a sports wagering platform.
- 49           (d) Upon request and with reasonable notice, the Commission or the Department of  
50 Revenue has the authority to audit any interactive sports wagering operator or its service  
51 providers as related to sports wagering activities authorized under this Article.

1       (e) Any sports governing body on whose sporting events sports wagering is authorized  
2 by this Article may enter into commercial agreements with interactive sports wagering operators  
3 or other entities in which the sports governing body may share in the amount bet from sports  
4 wagering on sporting events of the sports governing body. A sports governing body is not  
5 required to obtain a license or any other approval from the Commission to lawfully accept such  
6 amounts.

7 **"§ 18C-903.** Reserved for future codification purposes.

8 **"§ 18C-904. Interactive sports wagering license.**

9       (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to offer or accept sports wagers in this State without  
10 a valid interactive sports wagering license. Except as provided in G.S. 18C-928, the Commission  
11 shall authorize at least 10, but not more than 12, interactive sports wagering operators to offer  
12 and accept sports wagers to and from registered players on sporting events, which shall include  
13 any of the following:

14           (1) Professional sports.

15           (2) College sports.

16           (3) Electronic sports.

17           (4) Amateur sports.

18           (5) Any other event approved by the Commission.

19       (b) The Commission shall review and issue sports wagering licenses to qualified  
20 applicants. The applicant shall complete and submit an application on a form prescribed by the  
21 Commission and a licensing fee of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). If the application  
22 is denied, the licensing fee shall be refunded, minus any expenses the Commission incurs in  
23 reviewing the application.

24       (c) The application shall set forth all of the following:

25           (1) The proposed initial business plan, including the range of contemplated types  
26 and modes of sports wagering.

27           (2) The proposed measures to address age and identity verification and  
28 geolocation requirements.

29           (3) The proposed internal controls that will prevent ineligible persons from  
30 participating in sports wagering.

31           (4) A documented history of working to prevent compulsive gambling, including  
32 training programs for its employees.

33           (5) A written information security program detailing information security  
34 governance and the designation of a chief security officer or equivalent.

35           (6) The proposed sports wagering brand that the applicant plans to hold out to the  
36 public displaying its sports wagering platform.

37           (7) Any personal information the Commission may deem necessary concerning  
38 the applicant's key persons.

39           (8) Any other information the Commission may deem necessary.

40       (d) The Commission shall conduct a background investigation on the applicant and key  
41 persons as deemed necessary by the Commission. The background investigation shall include a  
42 credit history check, a tax record check, and a criminal history record check. The Commission  
43 may, in its discretion, accept the results of such prior check and an affidavit that there has been  
44 no change in criminal history since the prior check from an applicant or key person who has  
45 submitted to a criminal history record check in this or any other state within the previous 12  
46 months. The Commission may not award a license to any applicant who has been convicted, or  
47 a key person of the applicant has been convicted, of a felony or any gambling offense in any state  
48 or federal court of the United States within 10 years of application or renewal.

49       (e) An applicant and key person for licensure shall consent to a criminal history record  
50 check. Refusal to consent to a criminal history record check may constitute grounds for the  
51 Commission to deny licensure.

1       (f)     The Commission shall grant or deny all applications under this section. The grounds  
2 for denial of an interactive sports wagering license shall be the same as in G.S.18C-906(g). If  
3 there are more qualified applicants than the number of interactive sports wagering operators  
4 authorized under subsection (a) of this section, the Commission shall select the best qualified  
5 applicants taking into consideration the following factors:

- 6           (1)     The contents of the application submitted in accordance with this section.
- 7           (2)     The extent to which the applicant demonstrates past experience, financial  
8 viability, compliance with applicable laws and regulations in other  
9 jurisdictions, and success with sports wagering operations in other  
10 jurisdictions.
- 11          (3)     The extent to which the applicant is able to meet the duties of an interactive  
12 sports wagering operator.
- 13          (4)     The amount of adjusted gross revenue and associated tax revenue that an  
14 applicant is projected to generate.
- 15          (5)     Any other factors the Commission deems relevant.

16       (g)     A person holding a license to engage in sports wagering, on the basis of comparable  
17 licensing requirements issued to that person by a proper authority by another state or territory of  
18 the United States or the District of Columbia if that jurisdiction's requirements for licensure,  
19 certification, or registration are substantially equivalent to or exceed the requirements of this  
20 State, and who, in the opinion of the Commission otherwise meets the requirements of this Article  
21 based upon verified evidence may, upon application, be licensed as an interactive sports wagering  
22 operator without further examination. The Commission may also accept another jurisdiction's or  
23 approved third party's testing of the interactive sports wagering platform as evidence that the  
24 sports wagering platform meets any requirements mandated by the Commission.

25       (h)     The Commission shall review and issue interactive sports wagering licenses to  
26 qualified applicants within 60 days of receipt of a completed application. Any denial shall be in  
27 writing and state the grounds therefor.

28       (i)     Notwithstanding Chapter 132 of the General Statutes or any other provision of law,  
29 only the following documents under this section shall be a public record, with respect to each  
30 applicant and each interactive sports wagering operator:

- 31           (1)     The name, address, and sports wagering platform.
- 32           (2)     The name of all key persons.
- 33           (3)     The documented history of working to prevent compulsive gambling,  
34 including training programs for its employees.
- 35           (4)     The proposed sports wagering brand that the applicant plans to hold out to the  
36 public displaying its sports wagering platform.
- 37           (5)     Whether the Commission granted or denied the application.

38       (j)     Each interactive sports wagering operator shall promptly report all criminal or  
39 disciplinary proceedings commenced against that interactive sports wagering operator in  
40 connection with its operations to the Commission.

41 **"§ 18C-905.** Reserved for future codification purposes.

42 **"§ 18C-906. Applications for service provider licenses.**

43       (a)     It shall be unlawful for any person to provide covered services to any interactive  
44 sports wagering operator in this State without a valid service provider license. An interactive  
45 sports wagering operator who provides covered services in-house shall not be required to have a  
46 service provider license in addition to the interactive sports wagering operator license.

47       (b)     The Commission shall review and issue service provider licenses to qualified  
48 applicants within 60 days of receipt of a completed application. Any denial shall be in writing  
49 and state the grounds therefor. The applicant shall complete and submit an application on a form  
50 prescribed by the Commission and a licensing fee of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

51       (c)     The application shall set forth all of the following:

- 1           (1) The background in sports wagering or the covered service.  
2           (2) All experience with sports wagering or other wagering activities in other  
3 jurisdictions, including the applicant's history, reputation of integrity and  
4 compliance, and a list of all active and inactive licenses, certifications, or  
5 registrations and reasons for inactivity, if applicable.  
6           (3) A written information security program, detailing information security  
7 governance and the designation of a chief security officer or equivalent.  
8           (4) Any personal information the Commission may deem necessary concerning  
9 the applicant's key persons.  
10          (5) Any other information the Commission may deem necessary.  
11          (d) The Commission shall conduct a background investigation on the applicant and key  
12 persons as deemed necessary by the Commission. The background investigation shall include a  
13 credit history check, a tax record check, and a criminal history record check. The Commission  
14 may, in its discretion, accept the results of such prior check and an affidavit that there has been  
15 no change in criminal history since the prior check from an applicant or key person who has  
16 submitted to a criminal history record check in this or any other state within the previous 12  
17 months. The Commission may not award a license to any applicant who has been convicted, or  
18 a key person of the applicant has been convicted, of a felony or any gambling offense in any state  
19 or federal court of the United States within 10 years of application or renewal.  
20          (e) An applicant and key person for licensure shall consent to a criminal history record  
21 check. Refusal to consent to a criminal history record check may constitute grounds for the  
22 Commission to deny licensure.  
23          (f) A person holding a service provider license or its equivalent, on the basis of  
24 comparable licensing requirements issued to that person by a proper authority by another state or  
25 territory of the United States or the District of Columbia if that jurisdiction's requirements for  
26 licensure, certification, or registration are substantially equivalent to or exceed the requirements  
27 of this State, and who, in the opinion of the Commission otherwise meets the requirements of  
28 this Article based upon verified evidence may, upon application, be licensed as a service provider  
29 without further examination.  
30          (g) Grounds for denial of a license may include the following:  
31               (1) The applicant is unable to satisfy the requirements under this Article.  
32               (2) The applicant or any key persons are not of good character, honesty or  
33 integrity.  
34               (3) The applicant's or any key person's prior activities, criminal record, reputation,  
35 or associations indicate any of the following:  
36                   a. A potential threat to the public interest.  
37                   b. Impede the regulation of sports wagering.  
38                   c. Promote unfair or illegal activities in the conduct of sports wagering.  
39               (4) The applicant or a key person knowingly makes a false statement of material  
40 fact or deliberately fails to disclose information requested by the Commission.  
41               (5) The applicant or a key person knowingly fails to comply with the provisions  
42 of this Article or any requirements of the Commission.  
43               (6) The applicant or a key person was convicted of a felony, a crime of moral  
44 turpitude, or any criminal offense involving dishonesty or breach of trust  
45 within the 10 years prior to the submission date of the application.  
46               (7) Any revocation, suspension, or denial of the applicant's or key person's  
47 license, certification, or registration to conduct sports wagering, other forms  
48 of gambling activity, or a covered service issued by any other jurisdiction.  
49               (8) The applicant has defaulted on any obligation or debt owed to this State.

1        (h) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, only the following documents under this  
2 section shall be a public record, with respect to each applicant and each interactive sports  
3 wagering operator:

4            (1) The name, address, and sports wagering platform.

5            (2) The name of all key persons.

6            (3) Whether the Commission granted or denied the application.

7        (i) Each service provider shall promptly report all criminal or disciplinary proceedings  
8 commenced against that service provider in connection with its operations to the Commission.

9 **"§ 18C-907.** Reserved for future codification purposes.

10 **"§ 18C-908. Renewals of licenses.**

11        (a) Any license issued pursuant to this Article shall be valid for five years.

12        (b) At least 60 days prior to the expiration of a license, the license holder shall submit a  
13 renewal application, on a form prescribed by the Commission, including a renewal fee of one  
14 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for an interactive sports wagering license and ten thousand  
15 dollars (\$10,000) for a service provider license.

16        (c) The Commission may deny a license renewal for any of the following reasons:

17            (1) The same grounds that would constitute denial of an initial application under  
18 G.S. 18C-906(g).

19            (2) A violation of this Article.

20            (3) With respect to interactive sports wagering operators, the Commission finds  
21 good cause to believe approval of another applicant would better meet the  
22 objectives of this Article in generating revenue for the State, protecting the  
23 public interest, and otherwise satisfying the criteria for issuance, and no  
24 additional licenses are to be available under G.S. 18C-904(a).

25 **"§ 18C-909.** Reserved for future codification purposes.

26 **"§ 18C-910. Duties of interactive sports wagering operators.**

27        (a) The interactive sports wagering operator and its service providers shall make  
28 commercially reasonable efforts to do all of the following:

29            (1) Prevent persons who are not registered players from placing sports wagers  
30 through its sports wagering platform.

31            (2) Prevent persons who are not physically located in the State from placing a  
32 wager through its sports wagering platform.

33            (3) Protect the confidential information of registered players using its sports  
34 wagering platform.

35            (4) Prevent sports wagering on prohibited events set forth in this Article or as  
36 otherwise determined by the Commission.

37            (5) Prevent persons from placing sports wagers as agents or proxies for others.

38            (6) Allow persons to voluntarily exclude themselves under G.S. 18C-112 from  
39 placing sports wagers through its sports wagering platform as set forth in this  
40 Article.

41            (7) Establish procedures to detect suspicious or illegal sports wagering activity.

42            (8) Provide for the reporting of income tax of registered players where required  
43 by applicable State or federal law.

44            (9) Prevent a participant in a sporting event, including an athlete, coach, trainer,  
45 official, or any employee or staff of a participant from placing a sports wager  
46 on that sporting event in which the participant is participating.

47        (b) For three years after a sporting event occurs, interactive sports wagering operators  
48 shall maintain records on:

49            (1) All sports wagers, including the identity of the registered player.

50            (2) The amount, type, time, location, and outcome of the wager, including the IP  
51 address, if available.

1           (3) Suspicious or illegal sports wagering activity.

2           (c) The interactive sports wagering operator shall disclose the records described in  
3 G.S. 18C-910(b) to the Commission upon request.

4           (d) If a sports governing body has notified the Commission that real-time information  
5 sharing for sports wagers placed on its sporting events is necessary, interactive sports wagering  
6 operators shall share with that sports governing body or its designee in real time, at the account  
7 level, anonymized information regarding a wagerer, amount and type of wager, the time the  
8 wager was placed, the location of the wager, and the IP address if applicable, outcome of the  
9 wager, and records of abnormal sports wagering activity. For purposes of this subsection, real  
10 time means on a commercially reasonable periodic interval, but in any event, not less than once  
11 every 72 hours.

12           (e) In advertising its sports wagering platform, the interactive sports wagering operator  
13 shall ensure that its advertisements meet all of the following:

14                   (1) It does not target persons under the age of 21.

15                   (2) It discloses the identity of the interactive sports wagering operator.

16                   (3) It provides information about or links to resources related to gambling  
17 addiction and prevention.

18                   (4) It is not misleading to a reasonable person.

19           (f) Interactive sports wagering operators shall conduct background checks on newly  
20 hired employees. The interactive sports wagering operator shall also conduct a single background  
21 check on employees as of the date of licensure. Background checks shall search for criminal  
22 history and any charges or convictions involving corruption or manipulation of sporting events  
23 and association with organized crime.

24           (g) Interactive sports wagering operators shall employ commercially reasonable methods  
25 to maintain the security of wagering data, registered player and other customer data, and any  
26 other confidential information, including information provided by a sports governing body, from  
27 unauthorized access and dissemination. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude the use of  
28 internet or cloud-based hosting of such data and information or disclosure as required by State  
29 or federal law or a court order.

30 "§ 18C-911. Reserved for future codification purposes.

31 "§ 18C-912. Establishment of interactive accounts.

32           (a) Only a registered player shall be permitted to deposit cash or cash equivalents, or to  
33 place a sports wager, with an interactive sports wagering operator. The interactive sports  
34 wagering operator is responsible for verifying the identity of the registered player and ensuring  
35 that the registered player is at least 21 years of age.

36           (b) A registered player may not have more than one interactive account with each  
37 interactive sports wagering operator.

38           (c) All of the following persons are prohibited from engaging in sports wagering:

39                   (1) Any person under the age of 21.

40                   (2) Any person who has requested and not revoked a voluntary exclusion  
41 designation from sports wagering pursuant to G.S. 18C-922.

42                   (3) Any person who has been adjudicated by law as prohibited from engaging in  
43 sports wagering.

44                   (4) Any member, officer, or employee of the Commission if placing a sports  
45 wager in this State.

46                   (5) Any employee or key person of an interactive sports wagering operator or  
47 service provider license when placing sports wagers with that interactive  
48 sports wagering operator.

49                   (6) With respect to a sporting event, any participant in that sporting event,  
50 including an athlete, coach, trainer, official, or any employee or staff of a



- 1 participant, when placing a sports wager on that sporting event in which that  
2 participant is participating.
- 3 (7) Any employees or staff of a sports governing body or authorizing league or  
4 similar sponsoring organization, but only from the sporting events with which  
5 that individual or sports governing body, authorizing league or similar  
6 sponsoring organization is affiliated.
- 7 (d) An interactive account shall meet all of the following requirements:
- 8 (1) Be registered in the name of the registered player, who is a natural person.  
9 (2) Be established through the interactive sports wagering operator's sports  
10 wagering platform.  
11 (3) Be funded with cash or cash equivalents online or placed at a sports facility as  
12 provided in G.S. 18C-926(a).  
13 (4) Prohibit the transfer or sale of an account or account balance.  
14 (5) Prohibit the use of any virtual private network or other technology that may  
15 obscure or falsify the registered player's physical location.  
16 (6) Prohibit any form of collusion, cheating, or other unlawful activity.  
17 (7) Affirm that the registered player meets all eligibility requirements for  
18 registration.  
19 (8) Authorize the provision of notices and other required communications either  
20 through a designated mobile or other interface or to an electronic mail address  
21 designated by the registered player.
- 22 (e) The interactive sports wagering operator shall put in place sufficient measures to  
23 verify the age and identity of the registered player needed to allow the establishment of  
24 interactive accounts remotely.
- 25 (f) An interactive account held by a registered player in this State may be suspended or  
26 terminated by the interactive sports wagering operator under any of the following conditions:
- 27 (1) The registered player has provided any false or misleading information in  
28 connection with the opening of the account, or has engaged in collusion,  
29 cheating, or other unlawful conduct.  
30 (2) The registered player is barred from placing sports wagers in the State.  
31 (3) The registered player is or otherwise becomes ineligible pursuant to this  
32 Article.  
33 (4) For any other reason at the sole discretion of the interactive sports wagering  
34 operator, provided that it is not on the basis of a registered player's actual or  
35 believed sex, gender identity, race, religion, national origin, sexual  
36 orientation, or other lawfully protected characteristic.
- 37 (g) In the event of termination of the interactive account in accordance with this section,  
38 the registered player shall be provided a timely ability to access and withdraw any funds  
39 remaining in the interactive account.
- 40 **§ 18C-913.** Reserved for future codification purposes.
- 41 **§ 18C-914. Integrity of competition and prohibited events.**
- 42 (a) A sports governing body may submit to the Commission in writing a request to  
43 restrict, limit, or exclude a certain type, form, or category of sports wagering with respect to  
44 sporting events of such body, if the sports governing body believes that such type, form, or  
45 category of sports wagering with respect to sporting events of such body may undermine the  
46 integrity or perceived integrity of such body or sporting events of such body. The Commission  
47 shall request comment from sports wagering operators on all such requests. After giving due  
48 consideration to all comments received, the Commission shall, upon a demonstration of good  
49 cause from the requestor that such type, form, or category of sports wagering is likely to  
50 undermine the integrity or perceived integrity of such body or sporting events of such body, grant  
51 the request. The Commission shall respond to a request concerning a particular event before the

1 start of the event, or if it is not feasible to respond before the start of the event, no later than seven  
2 days after the request is made. If the Commission determines that the requestor is more likely  
3 than not to prevail in successfully demonstrating good cause for its request, the Commission may  
4 provisionally grant the request of the sports governing body until the Commission makes a final  
5 determination as to whether the requestor has demonstrated good cause. Absent such a  
6 provisional grant by the Commission, sports wagering operators may continue to offer sports  
7 wagering on sporting events that are the subject of such a request during the pendency of the  
8 Commission's consideration of the applicable request.

9 (b) The Commission and interactive sports wagering operators shall cooperate with  
10 investigations conducted by sports governing bodies or law enforcement agencies, including  
11 using commercially reasonable efforts to provide or facilitate the provision of sports wagering  
12 information. All disclosures under this section are subject to an interactive sports wagering  
13 operator's obligations to comply with all federal, State, and local laws and regulations, including  
14 those relating to privacy and personally identifiable information.

15 (c) Interactive sports wagering operators are not required to use official league data for  
16 determining any of the following:

17 (1) The results of tier one sports wagers on sporting events of any organization  
18 whether headquartered in the United States or elsewhere.

19 (2) The results of tier two sports wagers on sporting events of organizations that  
20 are not headquartered in the United States.

21 (d) A sports governing body may notify the Commission that it desires interactive sports  
22 wagering operators to use official league data to settle tier two sports wagers on sporting events  
23 of such sports governing body. Such notification shall be made in the form and manner as the  
24 Commission may require. The Commission shall notify each interactive sports wagering operator  
25 of a sports governing body's notification within five days of the Commission's receipt of such  
26 notification. If a sports governing body does not so notify the Commission, an interactive sports  
27 wagering operator is not required to use official league data for determining the results of tier  
28 two sports wagers on sporting events of such sports governing body.

29 (e) Within 60 days of the Commission notifying each interactive sports wagering  
30 operator of such a sports governing body notification to the Commission, or such longer period  
31 as may be agreed between the sports governing body and the applicable interactive sports  
32 wagering operator, interactive sports wagering operators shall use only official league data to  
33 determine the results of tier two sports wagers on sporting events of that sports governing body,  
34 unless any of the following apply:

35 (1) The sports governing body or its designee cannot provide a feed of official  
36 league data to determine the results of a particular type of tier two sports  
37 wager, in which case interactive sports wagering operators are not required to  
38 use official league data for determining the results of the applicable tier two  
39 sports wager until such time as such a data feed becomes available from the  
40 sports governing body on commercially reasonable terms and conditions.

41 (2) An interactive sports wagering operator can demonstrate to the Commission  
42 that the sports governing body or its designee will not provide a feed of official  
43 league data to the interactive sports wagering operator on commercially  
44 reasonable terms and conditions.

45 (3) The sports governing body or its designee does not obtain a license from the  
46 Commission to provide official league data to interactive sports wagering  
47 operators to determine the results of tier two sports wagers, if and to the extent  
48 required by law.

49 (f) During the pendency of the Commission's determination as to whether a sports  
50 governing body or its designee will provide a feed of official league data on commercially  
51 reasonable terms, an interactive sports wagering operator is not required to use official league

1 data for determining the results of tier two sports wagers. The Commission's determination shall  
2 be made within 60 days of the interactive sports wagering operator notifying the Commission  
3 that it desires to demonstrate that the sports governing body or its designees will not provide a  
4 feed of official league data to the sports wagering operator on commercially reasonable terms.  
5 The following is a non-exclusive list of factors the Commission may consider in evaluating  
6 whether official league data is being offered on commercially reasonable terms and conditions  
7 for purposes of this subsection and subsections (d) and (e) of this section:

- 8 (1) The extent to which interactive sports wagering operators have purchased the  
9 same or similar official league data on the same or similar terms, particularly  
10 in jurisdictions where such purchase was not required by law, or was required  
11 by law, but only if offered on commercially reasonable terms.
- 12 (2) The nature and quantity of the official league data, including its speed,  
13 accuracy, reliability, and overall quality, as compared to comparable  
14 non-official data.
- 15 (3) The quality and complexity of the process used to collect and distribute the  
16 official league data as compared to comparable non-official data.
- 17 (4) The availability of a sports governing body's tier two official league data to a  
18 sports wagering operator from more than one authorized source.
- 19 (5) Market information, including price and other terms and conditions, regarding  
20 the purchase by interactive sports wagering operators of comparable data for  
21 the purpose of settling sports wagers in this State and other jurisdictions.
- 22 (6) The extent to which sports governing bodies or their designees have made data  
23 used to settle tier two sports wagers available to interactive sports wagering  
24 operators and any terms and conditions relating to the use of that data.
- 25 (7) Any other information the Commission deems relevant.

26 (g) Interactive sports wagering operators shall, as soon as practicable, report to the  
27 Commission any information relating to abnormal betting activity or patterns that may indicate  
28 a concern with the integrity of a sporting event or events, or any other conduct that corrupts a  
29 sports wagering outcome of a sporting event or events for purposes of financial gain, including  
30 match fixing. The interactive sports wagering operator making such a report shall also  
31 simultaneously report such information to the relevant sports governing body.

32 **"§ 18C-915.** Reserved for future codification purposes.

33 **"§ 18C-916. Civil penalties; suspension and revocation of licenses.**

34 If the Commission determines that the holder of a license under this Article has violated any  
35 provision of this Article, the Commission, with at least 15 days' notice and a hearing, may do  
36 either or both of the following:

- 37 (1) Suspend or revoke the license.
- 38 (2) Impose a monetary penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)  
39 for each violation.

40 **"§ 18C-917.** Reserved for future codification purposes.

41 **"§ 18C-918. Criminal penalties.**

42 (a) Any person who knowingly offers or engages in sports wagering in violation of this  
43 Article shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

44 (b) Any person under the age of 21 who engages in sports wagering as defined under this  
45 Article shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

46 (c) Any person who knowingly attempts to suborn, collude, or otherwise conspire to  
47 influence the outcome of any competition or aspect of any competition that is the subject of sports  
48 wagering pursuant to this Article shall be guilty of a Class G felony.

49 (d) Any applicant for an interactive sports wagering license or a service provider license  
50 who willfully furnishes, supplies, or otherwise gives false information on the interactive sports  
51 wagering license application shall be guilty of a Class I felony.

1       (e) Nothing in this Article shall be construed to allow the interactive sports wagering  
2 operator or its service providers to be charged with violation of this Article absent actual notice  
3 and knowledge that a registered player is under age or giving false information.

4 **"§ 18C-919.** Reserved for future codification purposes.

5 **"§ 18C-920. Tax.**

6       (a) There shall be imposed a tax of eight percent (8%) on the adjusted gross revenue of  
7 each interactive sports wagering operator. The tax imposed pursuant to this section is due  
8 monthly to the Commission and shall be remitted on or before the twentieth day of the next  
9 succeeding calendar month. If the interactive sports wagering operator's accounting practices  
10 necessitate corrections to a previously remitted tax, the interactive sports wagering operator shall  
11 document such corrections when the interactive sports wagering operator pays the following  
12 month's taxes.

13       (b) If the interactive sports wagering operator's adjusted gross revenue for a month is a  
14 negative number, the interactive sports wagering operator may carry over the negative amount  
15 to a remission required under subsection (a) of this section within 12 months and deduct such  
16 amount from its tax liability for that month.

17       (c) After reimbursement of expenses in implementing its responsibilities under this  
18 Article and payments as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the Commission shall remit  
19 all tax payments collected pursuant to this section and all license fees collected pursuant to this  
20 Article to the Department of Revenue. The Commission shall document all expenses for which  
21 deduction from the payments owed is asserted, which documentation shall be subject to audit by  
22 the State.

23       (d) The Commission shall remit fifty percent (50%) of the tax collected in subsection (a)  
24 of this section to the North Carolina Major Events, Games, and Attractions Fund established  
25 under G.S. 143A-437.112.

26       (e) Interactive sports wagering operators shall not be subjected to an excise tax, license  
27 tax, permit tax, privilege tax, amusement tax, or occupation tax that is imposed upon the  
28 interactive sports wagering operator by the State or any political subdivision thereof, except as  
29 provided in this Article.

30       (f) The Commission shall provide all of the following to the Department of Revenue:

31           (1) A monthly report that includes a complete statement of sports wagering  
32 revenues and expenses for the previous month.

33           (2) A complete statement of sports wagering revenues and expenses, along with  
34 any recommendations for changes to this Article for the fiscal year, within 30  
35 days of the end of that fiscal year. A copy shall also be provided to the State  
36 Controller.

37 **"§ 18C-921.** Reserved for future codification purposes.

38 **"§ 18C-922. Voluntary exclusion program.**

39       (a) Any individual shall be able to voluntarily exclude themselves from placing sports  
40 wagers through a voluntary exclusion program established by the Commission. Interactive sports  
41 wagering operators shall use reasonable means to comply with exclusion of individuals  
42 participating in the program by the Commission.

43       (b) The Commission shall adopt rules to establish the voluntary exclusion program,  
44 which shall comply with all of the following:

45           (1) Verification of the individual's request to be placed in the program, and for  
46 how long, up to and including that individual's lifetime.

47           (2) How information regarding which individuals are in the program is to be  
48 disseminated to the interactive sports wagering operators.

49           (3) How an individual in the program may petition the Commission for removal  
50 from the program.

1           (4)    The means by which the interactive sports wagering operators and their agents  
2           shall make all reasonable efforts to cease direct marketing efforts to  
3           individuals participating in the program.

4           (5)    The means by which the Commission shall make available to all interactive  
5           sports wagering operators and their agents the names of the individuals  
6           participating the program, which shall be at least quarterly.

7           (c)    Participation in the voluntary exclusion program shall not preclude an interactive  
8           sports wagering operator and its agents from seeking the payment of a debt accrued by the  
9           individual prior to participating in the program.

10          "**§ 18C-923.** Reserved for future codification purposes.

11          "**§ 18C-924. Risk management.**

12           The Commission shall adopt rules permitting, but not requiring, interactive sports wagering  
13           operators and their service providers to employ systems that offset loss or manage or lay off risk  
14           in the operation of sports wagering pursuant to this Article, including through liquidity pools,  
15           exchanges, or similar mechanisms in another approved jurisdiction in which the interactive sports  
16           wagering operator, service provider, or an affiliate of either or other third party also holds a  
17           license or the equivalent, provided that at all times adequate protections are maintained to ensure  
18           sufficient funds are available to pay all registered players.

19          "**§ 18C-925.** Reserved for future codification purposes.

20          "**§ 18C-926. Places of public accommodation.**

21           (a)    The owner or operator of a sports facility may establish a place of public  
22           accommodation for the purpose of accessing a sports wagering platform through mobile devices,  
23           computer terminals, or similar access devices, either directly or with assistance. A place of public  
24           accommodations allowed under this section shall be located on the property containing the sports  
25           facility or on other property owned or controlled by the owner or operator of the sports facility  
26           or an affiliated entity of the owner or operator of the sports facility that is located within a  
27           one-quarter mile radius of the sports facility.

28           (b)    A public accommodation under this section may be advertised by the owner or  
29           operator of the sports facility. Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt a place of  
30           public accommodation from the provisions of any other law that may be enforceable.

31          "**§ 18C-927.** Reserved for future codification purposes.

32          "**§ 18C-928. Indian gaming; compliance with federal law.**

33           (a)    All sports wagering authorized under this Article shall be initiated, received, and  
34           otherwise made within this State unless otherwise determined by the Commission in accordance  
35           with applicable federal and State laws. Consistent with the intent of the United States Congress  
36           as articulated in the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. § 5361 et  
37           seq), the intermediate routing of electronic data relating to intrastate sports wagering authorized  
38           under this Article shall not determine the location or locations in which such sports wagers are  
39           initiated, received, or otherwise made.

40           (b)    All activities authorized by this Article shall be deemed to be conducted solely under  
41           the authority of this Article and not under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, 25 U.S.C.  
42           § 2701 et seq.

43           (c)    A tribal gaming enterprise shall be deemed an interactive sports wagering operator  
44           upon the occurrence of all of the following:

45           (1)    Submission of a completed application to the Commission.

46           (2)    Payment to the Commission of any application and renewal fees as provided  
47           in this Article.

48           (3)    Agreement by the tribal gaming enterprise, in a form as prescribed by the  
49           Commission:

- 1           a.     To adhere to the requirements of this Article and to the regulations  
2                 adopted by the Commission with respect to interactive sports  
3                 wagering.
- 4           b.     To submit to the Commission's enforcement of this Article and any  
5                 implementing of the rules, including waiver of any applicable tribal  
6                 sovereign immunity for the sole and limited purpose of such  
7                 enforcement.
- 8           c.     To collect and pay all taxes imposed by this Article.
- 9           d.     To not offer or conduct any interactive gambling other than the  
10                interactive sports wagering authorized by this Article unless  
11                specifically otherwise authorized by law.
- 12           e.     To locate any server or other information technology equipment used  
13                 by the tribal gaming enterprise and its agents to accept interactive  
14                 sports wagering authorized by this Article on land that is not Indian  
15                 lands and which, upon request, shall be accessible by the Commission,  
16                 Department of Revenue and State law enforcement.

17       (d)   A tribal gaming enterprise deemed an interactive sports wagering operator under this  
18       section shall not count towards the total number of authorized interactive sports wagering  
19       operators in this State in accordance with G.S. 18C-904."

20       **SECTION 2.** Article 10B of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by  
21       adding a Part to read:

22           "Part 2L. North Carolina Major Events, Games, and Attractions Fund.

23       "**§ 143B-437.110. Legislative findings and purpose.**

24       The General Assembly finds that:

- 25           (1)   It is the policy of the State of North Carolina to stimulate economic activity  
26                 and to create new jobs for the citizens of the State by encouraging and  
27                 promoting the attraction of major events to the State that spur economic  
28                 activity by attracting out-of-state visitors to the State and thereby promoting  
29                 the travel and tourism industries within the State.
- 30           (2)   The purpose of this Part is to stimulate economic activity and to create new  
31                 jobs within the State.
- 32           (3)   The enactment of this Part will maintain consistency and accountability in a  
33                 key economic development program and will ensure that the program benefits  
34                 the State and its citizens.
- 35           (4)   Nothing in this Part shall be construed to constitute a guarantee or assumption  
36                 by the State of any debt of any business or to authorize the taxing power or the  
37                 full faith and credit of the State to be pledged.

38       "**§ 143B-437.111. Definitions.**

39       The following definitions apply in this Part:

- 40           (1)   Fund. – The North Carolina Major Events, Games, and Attractions Fund  
41                 established under G.S. 143B-437.112.
- 42           (2)   Local entity. – A city, county, or local organizing committee.
- 43           (3)   Local organizing committee. – A nonprofit corporation or its successor in  
44                 interest that satisfies one of the following conditions:
- 45                 a.     It has been authorized by a city, county, or more than one city or  
46                        county acting collectively to pursue an application and bid on the  
47                        applicant's behalf to a site selection organization for selection as the  
48                        site of a major event.
- 49                 b.     With the authorization of a city, county, or more than one city or  
50                        county acting collectively, it has executed an agreement with a site  
51                        selection organization regarding a bid to host a major event.

- 1           (4) Major event. – An entertainment, musical, political, sporting, or theatrical  
2 event that satisfies the following conditions:  
3           a. The event is held at a sports facility or is an event sponsored by the  
4 Ladies Professional Golf Association, the Professional Golfers'  
5 Association of America, the PGA Tour, or the United States Golf  
6 Association.  
7           b. The event is not held more often than annually.  
8           c. The location of the event is determined by a site selection organization  
9 through a competitive process.  
10          d. The site selection organization considered multiple sites located  
11 outside of the State for the event.  
12          e. The site selection organization selected a site within this State as the  
13 sole location for the event.  
14          (5) Site selection organization. – The organization responsible for determining the  
15 site of a major event.  
16          (6) Sports facility. – As defined in G.S. 18C-901.

17 **"§ 143B-437.112. North Carolina Major Events, Games, and Attractions Fund.**

18          (a) There is established the North Carolina Major Events, Games, and Attractions Fund  
19 to be administered by the Department. In order to foster job creation and investment in the  
20 economy of this State, the Department may enter into multiparty agreements with site selection  
21 organizations and local entities to provide grants in accordance with the provisions of this Part.  
22 Before entering into an agreement, the Department must find that all of the following conditions  
23 are met:

- 24           (1) The economic activity directly or indirectly attributable to the major event is  
25 sufficient to justify the use of State funds to attract or retain the event in this  
26 State.  
27           (2) It is anticipated that the major event will provide positive media exposure for  
28 the State, thereby supplementing the State's efforts to promote travel and  
29 tourism within the State.  
30           (3) The site selection organization must have considered multiple sites located  
31 outside of the State for the event.  
32           (4) The site selection organization has selected a site within this State as the sole  
33 location for the event.  
34           (5) The event is not held more often than annually.  
35           (6) The project will benefit the people of this State by increasing opportunities  
36 for employment and by strengthening this State's economy.  
37           (7) The project is consistent with economic development goals for the State and  
38 for the area where it will be located.  
39           (8) A grant under this Part is necessary to attract or retain the major event within  
40 this State.  
41           (9) The total benefits of the major event to the State outweigh its costs and render  
42 the grant appropriate for the major event.

43          (b) In addition to the amounts remitted to the Fund pursuant to G.S. 18C-920(d), the  
44 General Assembly shall determine any additional amount appropriated to the Fund. Agreements  
45 entered under this section are subject to appropriations.

46 **"§ 143B-437.113. Applications; reports; study.**

- 47          (a) Application. – A local entity shall apply to the Department for a grant on a form  
48 prescribed by the Department that includes at least all of the following:  
49           (1) The name or nature of the major event.  
50           (2) A complete listing of all local entities associated with the application.

1           (3)    To the extent known by the local entity, information concerning other  
2           locations, including locations in other states and countries, being considered  
3           for the major event and the nature of any governmental assistance available  
4           to support the major event were it to be located in one of those location.

5           (4)    Information concerning any other State or local government assistance for  
6           which the local entity is applying or that it has an expectation of receiving.

7           (5)    Any other information necessary for the Committee to evaluate the application.

8           (b)    Annual Reports. – The Department shall publish a report on the Fund on or before  
9           April 30 of each year. The Department shall submit the report electronically to the House of  
10          Representatives Finance Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the House of  
11          Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural and Economic Resources, the Senate  
12          Appropriations Committee on Natural and Economic Resources, and the Fiscal Research  
13          Division. The report shall include the following:

14           (1)    A listing of each grant awarded during the preceding calendar year.

15           (2)    An update on the status of major events for which grants have been awarded  
16           but that have not yet occurred.

17           (3)    For the first annual report after adoption of the guidelines developed by the  
18           Department to implement this Part, a copy of the guidelines, and for  
19           subsequent reports, identification of any changes to those guidelines from the  
20           previous annual report.

21           (4)    The geographic distribution of grants, by number and amount, awarded under  
22           the program.

23           (5)    A listing of all local entities making an application under this Part and an  
24           explanation of whether a site selection organization located the major event  
25           in this State regardless of whether a grant for the event was awarded under  
26           this Part.

27           (c)    Study. – The Department shall conduct a study to determine the minimum funding  
28           level required to implement the Fund successfully. The Department shall report the results of this  
29           study to the House of Representatives Finance Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the  
30           House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural and Economic Resources,  
31           the Senate Appropriations Committee on Natural and Economic Resources, and the Fiscal  
32           Research Division no later than April 1 of each year.

33           **"§ 143B-437.114. Program guidelines.**

34           The Department, in conjunction with the Governor's Office, shall develop guidelines related  
35           to the administration of the Fund, the selection of projects to receive allocations from the Fund,  
36           and the disbursement of a grant under the Fund. At least 20 days before the effective date of any  
37           guidelines or nontechnical amendments to guidelines, the Department must publish the proposed  
38           guidelines on the Department's website and provide notice to persons who have requested notice  
39           of proposed guidelines. In addition, the Department must accept oral and written comments on  
40           the proposed guidelines during the 15 business days beginning on the first day that the  
41           Department has completed these notifications. For the purpose of this section, a technical  
42           amendment is either of the following:

43           (1)    An amendment that corrects a spelling or grammatical error.

44           (2)    An amendment that makes a clarification based on public comment and could  
45           have been anticipated by the public notice that immediately preceded the  
46           public comment."

47           **SECTION 3.(a)** G.S. 18C-114(a)(8) reads as rewritten:

48           (8)    To charge a fee of potential ~~contractors and~~ contractors, of lottery ~~contractors~~  
49           contractors, and of interactive sports wagering operators under Article 9 of  
50           this Chapter to not exceed the cost of the criminal record check of the potential  
51           contractors and lottery contractors."



1           **SECTION 3.(b)** G.S. 18C-120(b)(2) reads as rewritten:

2           "(2) To conduct a background investigation, including a criminal history record  
3           check, of applicants for employment with the Commission, interactive sports  
4           wagering operators under Article 9 of this Chapter, lottery retailers, and lottery  
5           potential contractors, which may include a search of the State and National  
6           Repositories of Criminal Histories based on the fingerprints of applicants."

7           **SECTION 3.(c)** G.S. 143B-947 reads as rewritten:

8       "**§ 143B-947. Criminal record checks for the North Carolina State Lottery Commission**  
9       **and its Director.**

10       The Department of Public Safety may provide to the North Carolina State Lottery  
11       Commission and to its Director from the State and National Repositories of Criminal Histories  
12       the criminal history of any prospective employee of the ~~Commission and Commission~~, any  
13       potential ~~contractor~~-contractor, and any prospective interactive sports wagering operator or  
14       service provider under Article 9 of Chapter 18C of the General Statutes. The North Carolina State  
15       Lottery Commission or its Director shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, along with  
16       the request, the fingerprints of the prospective employee of the Commission, or of the potential  
17       contractor, a form signed by the prospective employee of the Commission, or of the potential  
18       contractor consenting to the criminal record check and use of fingerprints and other identifying  
19       information required by the State and National Repositories, and any additional information  
20       required by the Department of Public Safety. The fingerprints of the prospective employee of the  
21       Commission, or potential contractor, or potential interactive sports wagering operator, shall be  
22       forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation for a search of the State's criminal history record  
23       file, and the State Bureau of Investigation shall forward a set of fingerprints to the Federal Bureau  
24       of Investigation for a national criminal history record check. The North Carolina State Lottery  
25       Commission and its Director shall remit any fingerprint information retained by the Commission  
26       to alcohol law enforcement agents appointed under Article 5 of Chapter 18B of the General  
27       Statutes and shall keep all information obtained pursuant to this section confidential. The  
28       Department of Public Safety shall charge a reasonable fee only for conducting the checks of the  
29       criminal history records authorized by this section."

30       **SECTION 4.** If any section or provision of this act is declared unconstitutional or  
31       invalid by the courts, it does not affect the validity of this act as a whole or any part other than  
32       the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

33       **SECTION 5.** The Commission shall adopt temporary rules to implement the  
34       provisions of this Article. The Commission may accept and issue applications for licensure in  
35       accordance with Article 9 of Chapter 18C of the General Statutes, as enacted by this act, and any  
36       such license issued by the Commission shall become effective October 1, 2021. If more than 12  
37       completed applications are received, the Commission in its discretion shall select the qualified  
38       applicants it determines will best serve the public interest in maximizing revenue to the State,  
39       while preserving the integrity of sports wagering and ensuring accountability and preserving the  
40       public trust in licensed sports wagering activities.

41       **SECTION 6.** Section 5 is effective when the act becomes law. Except as otherwise  
42       provided, this act becomes effective October 1, 2021.