



A weekly newsletter on North Carolina General Assembly news relevant to the North Carolina tourism industry

NCTIA Pod Previews NCGA Short Session



There's a lot of unfinished issues for state legislators to tackle in the General Assembly short session set to begin on April 24: budget tweaks, medical marijuana, gambling, social issues, immigration, and more.

House Majority Leader [John Bell \(R-Wayne\)](#) and Senate Democratic Whip [Jay Chaudhuri \(D-Wake\)](#) join NCTIA lobbyists Skye David and Brian Lewis for a comprehensive (and fun) preview of the short session ahead.

The episode can be heard on [Apple](#), [Spotify](#), or wherever you listen to podcasts.

The foursome also talk primary and general election politics, planned and unplanned legislator departures, rumors, the length of session, Tweet of the Week, and YouTube star Mr. Beast.

The [Do Politics Better](#) podcast is sponsored by the NC Travel Industry Association.

[Click to listen to the podcast.](#)

Sports Wagering a Great Bet for NC

The article below is excerpted from a story published by WRAL on April 16. [Click to read the entire article.](#)

Bettors in North Carolina wagered more than \$659 million on sports in March and were paid out more than \$590 million. The North Carolina State Lottery Commission released the figures Tuesday.

Bettors bet \$456 million in paid wagers and another \$202 million in promotional wagers from the March 11 start date through the end of the month. The gross wagering revenue for operators was \$66.4 million.

Operators will pay an 18% tax on that figure, meaning North Carolina will collect nearly \$12 million from the first weeks of sports betting.

"It's going to be a bigger revenue source than maybe even I imagined," said state Rep. Jason Saine, R-Lincoln County, a budget writer and the top sponsor of legislation to legalize mobile sports betting.

The commission previously announced that bettors in North Carolina wagered \$198 million in the first week that sports betting was live in the state, boosted by promotional or bonus bets that were plentiful among operators at the outset.

Online sports betting launched statewide March 11 at noon, one day before the ACC men's basketball tournament began, with eight operators licensed to take bets.

A recent WRAL News poll found that the majority of adults in the state never plan to bet on sports.

The tax revenue will be distributed to various organizations in the state, including \$2 million to the Department of Health and Human Services for gambling addiction education and treatment programs, \$1 million to North Carolina Amateur Sports, \$1 million to the North Carolina Youth Outdoor Engagement Commission and up to \$300,000 to the athletic departments at 13 state universities.

After the initial distributions, 20% of the remaining revenue will go to those athletic departments, 30% to the North Carolina Major Events, Games, and Attractions Fund and 50% to the state's general fund.

Month	Paid Wagering Revenue	Promo Wagering Revenue	Total Wagering Revenue	Cancelled/Void Wagers	Amounts Paid as Winnings	Gross Wagering Revenue
March*	\$456,702,632	\$202,605,909	\$659,308,541	\$2,062,025	\$590,750,303	\$66,496,213
April						
May						
June						
Totals	\$456,702,632	\$202,605,909	\$659,308,541	\$2,062,025	\$590,750,303	\$66,496,213

* Preliminary, aggregate amounts shown here are as reported to the Commission by licensed interactive sports wagering operators. Final revenue amounts that operators report to the North Carolina Department of Revenue could be adjusted.
** Sports wagering began on March 11, 2024, at noon.