

June 3, 2021

Senate Select Committee on Gaming Senate Bill 176 Interested Party Ohioan's Written Testimony.

The Ohio Sports Betting law will be your bill for Ohioans. I feel that the interests of the gaming businesses could overshadow the interests of the Ohio consumers. Resist the lobbying of the current and existing Ohio Casinos and Racinos to limit expansion and competition of gaming in Ohio. I ask you to consider my response to Senate Bill 176.

The Class B license brick and mortar Sportsbooks need a liquor license. Also, mandate a minimum of seating in the sportsbook lounge for 100 people facing a screen wall of 50 TV monitors with sporting events. I would suggest that all new Sportsbooks have slots machines. Why, because to compete with current Ohio Casinos and Racinos and be long term profitable it is a necessity. During the slow betting late spring and summer months, the Sportsbooks will be empty without other gaming entertainment available. Lastly do NOT limit the number to only 20 for the Class B licenses. Let the free market determine how many Sportsbooks Ohioans need and will support. All Class B licenses should by default include a Class A mobile betting license.

Ohio's professional sports teams do not necessarily need an "A or B" license to engage in sports betting. The Pro Teams can form a partnership with an existing or new Sportsbook casino (example Bally's wants a casino in Ohio). The Pro Teams can invest in the Sportsbook, offer the physical location and get the naming rights as part of the partnership. And of course, share in any profits. This also eliminates the problem that Pro Teams cannot "bank the bet" due to their league charters.

I suggest dropping the Ohio Lotto sports betting "pools" idea. This is not sports betting. The current lotto concept is "spend a little to win a lot", parlay betting does this. Talk to Intralot about multi-team parlay betting for a proper Ohio Lotto for sports betting. Intralot has done this for Delaware and other States. Use existing lotto best practices from other States for Ohio Lotto sports betting.

I'm Benjamin @bentrolled on Twitter. A proud Ohioan, advocate for #OhioSportsBetting and a lifelong Cleveland Browns fan. I follow on Twitter all members of this committee, feel free to message me if you have any questions. Thank you for considering my opinions and recommendations.