

# Del. Supreme Court denies Markell request for ruling on sports betting

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DOVER -- An opinion on the legality of sports betting will have to wait until after the legislation is passed by the Legislature, the state Supreme Court has decided.

Gov. Jack Markell had asked the state's highest court to rule on the legality of instituting sports betting and expanding gambling sites.

In a letter to the governor dated last week, Chief Justice Myron Steele said since the legislation has been amended, the initial request has become moot.

"It would appear that the current bill remains subject to further amendment," Steele wrote.

Markell initially proposed legalizing sports betting, allowing the practice at up to 10 new sites, authorizing the construction of up to three new casinos and a change in the state's share of video slots revenues.

Since then, the legislation has been amended to remove the 10 new sites and the construction of three new casinos. Without having passed either chamber of the Legislature, the bill could face further amendment.

Steele wrote they could not make a ruling until legislation passes both chambers of the General Assembly and that if another request was made after legislation was awaiting a signature from the governor, they would then consider the legality.

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