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Ohio could ban phone sports betting

Haley BeMiller
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio would ban people from using their phones to place sports bets under new legislation being pushed by House Republicans.

Three lawmakers unveiled a plan on April 8 to restrict sports gaming three years after it became legal. Under their proposal, Ohio would require gamblers to place wagers at casinos, prohibit all betting on college sports, cap the amount and frequency of bets, and limit the ability of sportsbooks to advertise or

offer financial incentives.

The bills would eliminate certain types of bets, including proposition bets that are tied to specific parts of the game rather than the final outcome. Bettors also couldn't use a credit card to place wagers.

"I want to know the outcome is determined on the field of play, not on the gambling markets," Rep. Riordan McClain, R-Upper Sandusky, said during a news conference.

Ohio legalized sports betting in 2023, something Gov. Mike DeWine said he now regrets. Critics say the ease of access through betting apps encourages

addictive, financially risky behavior and can drive people to consider or attempt suicide.

Proponents often point to the money that states make from gaming. Ohio generated more than \$1 billion in sports betting revenue last year, according to the Ohio Casino Control Commission. The state diverts most of that revenue to schools, with some reserved for a fund to combat problem gambling.

Since sports betting launched in Ohio, regulators have banned prop bets on individual college athletes who faced harassment from bettors. DeWine also worked with Major League Baseball to cap wagers

on pitches after two Cleveland Guardians pitchers were charged with accepting bribes to help gamblers win.

"All these guys have given a black eye to professional sports," said Lawrence Funderburke, who played basketball for Ohio State University and the Sacramento Kings.

These bills likely face an uphill battle with lawmakers. Some Republicans have criticized DeWine's crusade against prop bets and pushed to legalize online casino gambling.

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NASA astronaut Christina Koch, left, takes control of the Orion spacecraft during a manual piloting test of the Artemis II mission. To her right is CSA (Canadian Space Agency) astronaut Jeremy Hansen and NASA astronaut Victor Glover. PROVIDED BY NASA

Furthering Ohio's outer space legacy

State's NASA centers helped power Artemis II

Amani Bayo
Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

Before NASA's Artemis II mission journeyed to the far reaches of space, the Orion spacecraft underwent rigorous testing right here in Ohio.

Engineers spent nearly a decade putting Orion through deep-space stress tests before Artemis II at NASA's Neil Armstrong Test Facility in Sandusky, according to the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. And that's not the only role Ohio has played in the first human lunar flyby since Apollo 17 in 1972.

Ohio researchers spent years developing, managing and testing key parts of the Orion spacecraft now carrying four astronauts on their 10-day mission around the moon and back.

Aaron Weaver, chief of the Human Exploration and Space Operations Projects Office at NASA

"Artemis is a platform to showcase all of the great work we do in Ohio and the great jobs that are here to do this really intense, out-of-this-world kind of work."

Aaron Weaver
Chief of the Human Exploration and Space Operations Projects Office at NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland

Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, said the Artemis II mission is both a point of pride for Ohio and a chance to showcase the state's role in aerospace innovation.

"Artemis is a platform to showcase all of the great work we do in Ohio and the great jobs that are here to do this really intense, out-of-this-world kind of work," Weaver said.

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Water damage closes Chase Bank building in Granville

Alan Miller
TheReportingProject.org

A little over a year after Chase spent millions of dollars to renovate the most prominent commercial building on Broadway in downtown Granville, the landmark suffered significant water damage and is closed indefinitely, Village Manager Herb Koehler said.

The Granville Township Fire Department responded to an alarm early March 26 at the building, 116 E. Broadway, Koehler said, and found water pouring through a leak in the roof of the building, which dates to the mid-1800s.

Chase officials said they would immediately start another renovation, which could take six months, and the building will be closed until further notice, Koehler said. The company's ATM at Ross' Market remains available to customers, and Chase employees told Koehler they are working to bring a mobile bank to the site.

"According to Chase officials, it started with heavy snows this winter," Koehler said. "The roof has an angle but is largely flat. A portion of the third floor started to fail, causing a beam to bow, and more and more water was accumulating."

When fire officials entered the building and saw what was happening, "Chief Casey Curtis deemed the building uninhabitable, seeing the potential danger that the west facade could be failing," Koehler said.

The roofing material split March 27, sending pooled water on the roof pouring down through all three floors of the former Masonic Temple that later housed restaurants, including Donatos and Brews.

That release of water relieved the weight on the roof, and Koehler said it appears there is less concern about a collapse of the building's west wall, which abuts Linden Place. Koehler is awaiting word from structural engineers about the wall's integrity.

The roofing material remains split, but contractors have built a temporary system to collect rainwater from the roof and send it through pipes inside the building and out to the street, Koehler said.

If the wall is structurally sound, Linden Place will remain closed but the village will provide access to Centenary Methodist Church's east

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