



Over \$2 Billion and Counting for our Schools

July 31, 2019

Mayor Paul Grenier  
City of Berlin  
168 Main St  
Berlin, NH 03570

Dear Mayor Grenier,

As you may be aware, House Bill 480 was recently signed into law legalizing sports betting in New Hampshire. The Lottery Commission's division of sports wagering will conduct and regulate sports betting in the state, which is allowed through various channels, including at up to ten sports book retail locations.

We anticipate launching sports betting platforms in early 2020 following the selection process for online vendors and retailers. While we cannot predict if the physical sports books will be stand-alone or co-located within other commercial businesses, we do expect retailers to apply in metropolitan areas – and they can only conduct sports book operations in municipalities that have voted to allow it.

In a process identical to that allowing Keno, cities have the option to put the question to voters whether to permit the operation of sports book retail locations within the municipality. Given the launch schedule and the anticipated demand by players, I respectfully recommend the City Council place HB 480 on the ballot for voters to decide this fall. This does not mean that a business will apply within your city for one of the ten available sports book locations, but this suggestion is being made so that if a retailer does wish to apply, they would not have to wait two years until the election of 2021 before they could engage in the activity.

Be assured that if the City votes to allow the operation of sport books and an establishment is selected by the Lottery Commission, the City must grant that establishment approval before the Lottery will permit that location to begin operations.

The local option section of House Bill 480 is enclosed for your reference. My staff is standing by to answer any questions you may have, and will do our best to attend an upcoming City Council meeting at your request.

Respectfully,

Charlie McIntyre  
Executive Director

Enclosure



Live Free or Die

New Hampshire Lottery Commission 14 Integra Drive Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
TEL 603.271.3391 FAX 603.271.1160 TDD 1.800.735.2964 www.nhlottery.com

**CHAPTER 215**  
**HB 480-FN - FINAL VERSION EXCERPT**

*For the full text of HB 480: [www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill\\_status/billText.aspx?sy=2019&id=217&txtFormat=html](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/billText.aspx?sy=2019&id=217&txtFormat=html)*

**HOUSE BILL 480-FN**

AN ACT relative to sports betting.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

215:1 New Chapter; Sports Betting. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 287-H the following new chapter:  
CHAPTER 287-I SPORTS BETTING

287-I:5 Sports Book Retail Operations. The commission and its agents are further authorized to operate physical sports book retail locations within the state for the purposes of accepting tier I and tier III sports wagers from authorized bettors and paying prizes relating to those wagers. The sports book retail locations may be co-located with other commercial businesses or general commercial retail locations. No more than 10 sports book retail locations may be in operation at any given time.

287-I:6 Local Option for Operation of Sports Book Retail Locations.

I. Any town or city may allow the operation of a sports book retail location according to the provisions of this subdivision, in the following manner, excepting that nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit Internet or mobile wagering or lottery games involving tier III sports wagers in the jurisdiction, if so authorized by the passage of this statute.

(a) In a town, the question shall be placed on the warrant of an annual town meeting under the procedures set out in RSA 39:3, and shall be voted on a ballot. In a city, the legislative body may vote to place the question on the official ballot for any regular municipal election, or, in the alternative, shall place the question on the official ballot for any regular municipal election upon submission to the legislative body of a petition signed by 25 of the registered voters.

(b) The selectmen, aldermen, or city council shall hold a public hearing on the question at least 15 days but not more than 30 days before the question is to be voted on. Notice of the hearing shall be posted in at least 2 public places in the municipality and published in a newspaper of general circulation at least 7 days before the hearing.

(c) The wording of the question shall be substantially as follows: "Shall we allow the operation of sports book retail locations within the town or city?"

II. If a majority of those voting on the question vote "Yes", sports book retail locations may be operated within the town or city.

III. If the question is not approved, the question may later be voted upon according to the provisions of paragraph I at the next annual town meeting or regular municipal election.

IV. A municipality that has voted to allow the operation of sports book retail locations may consider rescinding its action in the manner described in paragraph I of this section.

V. An unincorporated place may allow the operation of a physical sports book retail location by majority vote of the county delegation, after a public hearing is held.

VI. The commission shall maintain a list of municipalities where sports book retail locations may be placed into operation.