

OPMCA

# Fueling*Matters*

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## Sports Gambling Tops House's Fall To-Do List

Speaker Cupp weighs in on timeline to finalize gaming legislation.

The Ohio House of Representatives is expected to tackle legalized sports gambling legislation when the legislature returns from summer break. Lawmakers will have two potential vehicles to legalize the industry in the form of a bill (SB 176) referred to the House Finance Committee and another measure (HB 29) that the House voted unanimously in late June to send to conference committee.

"Over the summer we'll be working on that to try and finalize it so when we come back in September, it's one of the first things that we do," Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) said. "That's our goal and that's our hope and that's what we're going to work toward."

One issue the lower chamber will have to contend with is whether to include small businesses, which have consistently pushed to be part of the legalization process.

In a letter to Speaker Cupp, OPMCA raised a number of concerns with HB29, including that retailers would be left out while there would be up to 45 brick-and-mortar sports books and 24-7 mobile betting options.

"There is no public policy rationale to restrict otherwise widely available sports gaming opportunities to a select group of businesses in the retail environment," relayed OPMCA in the letter. Additionally, OPMCA also raised concerns about, among other things, limits on the types of wagers that could be placed on self-service lottery terminals, a prohibition on cash transactions and a betting limit of $200 per day.

Lawmakers will have one less issue to worry about in the bills after language to legalize electronic instant bingo in veteran and fraternal organizations was inserted into the state's two-year operating budget (HB 110).