

Officials say Super Bowl increases demand for sports betting in NJ

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GALLOWAY TWP. - The Super Bowl may be over, but the battle to legalize sports gambling in New Jersey continues.

New Jersey 1st District Senator, Jeff Van Drew, told NBC40, "We legalized it in New Jersey, but the federal government has prohibited us from actually doing it."

In 2011, New Jersey voted to legalize sports betting, but it's been an uphill battle ever since, after federal law still prohibits it in all but four states.

Van Drew explained, "So now what New Jersey is saying, is that this is unconstitutional, this isn't fair. If you're going to allow it in Nevada, if you're allowing it in Delaware, if you're allowing it in Montana, you should certainly allow it in the state of New Jersey, or any state that wants to do it as well."

And many believe the Garden State is missing out.

In Las Vegas last year, sports fans bet an unprecedented \$99 million dollars on the Super Bowl.

Students at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey say they think it should be legal here in New Jersey as well. One student, Nikolai Berezin, said, "Yeah you should be able to do it, it's your money, do what you want with it. If you lose it, it's on you." Another student, Jessi Dyer, explained, "It would be better for them to just make it legal and strict, rather than everyone being all shady and sketchy about it."

The Stockton Polling Institute recently polan (e)5.8ebelieve would bring added revenue to Atlantic City in the sl

Dr. Israel Posner, Executive Director of the Levenson Institute at Stockton College, said, "I think it would be a big benefit to Atlantic City. It's precisely because, I said, if you can get people here during the winter, that's exactly when our valley is, so it would have more of an impact on Atlantic City than it might have on other states, when there is less of this cyclical type of visitation pattern throughout the year."

With students and other public officials in favor of legalizing sports betting here in our state, Senator Jeff Van Drew says it's now a federal issue that needs to be addressed.

Van Drew explained, "We actually went through the courts, and an appeals court, and three times now, the state of New Jersey has lost. We have one more hope, one more chance. If the Attorney General decides to do so, we will go to the Supreme Court, and if the Supreme Court decides to hear it, they will hear it, and we will find out if the law prohibiting sports books is indeed constitutional or not."