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UMass Amherst researchers complete first national review of the impacts of legal sports betting

Massachusetts projected to bring in less tax money than casinos and the

AMHERST -- Legal sports betting in Massachusetts is projected to have "far less impact economically" than the state's two other legal types of gambling - casinos and the lottery, according to a study by researchers with the University of Massachusetts-based Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts project.

In August, Massachusetts became the 36th state to legalize sports betting when Gov. Charlie Baker signed the Legislature's bill into law.

The SEIGMA report – published on Sept. 8 - was ordered by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission as it creates the licensing process and the rules and regulations to roll out sports betting in the commonwealth.

"For the last several years, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission has been monitoring proposals that would legalize sports wagering and designate the MGC as regulator in Massachusetts," said MGC Chair Cathy Judd-Stein. "The MGC saw the potential of sports wagering and requested this study be undertaken in November 2021 in anticipation of being tasked with regulating the industry. This report will aid the MGC as we begin to regulate a sports wagering industry in the Commonwealth with an uncompromising focus on integrity and player

Sports betting in the U.S. -legalized by a Supreme Court ruling in 2018 -- has developed rapidly and in sweeping, diverse ways across the nation, but its social and economic impacts are still largely unclear, the study found.

"We were trying to give a very broad overview of what is known at this point about the social and economic impact of sports betting,

Sports gambling in and it's the first nationwide effort to do that," said lead author Rachel Volberg, research professor in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences and SEIGMA's principal investigator. "It also summarizes what we know about sports betting in Massachusetts."

> The estimated tax revenue from legal sports betting in Massachusetts -- anywhere between \$8.6 million and \$63 million annually, depending on tax rate scenarios -- pales in comparison to the \$1.1 billion in revenues from the lottery and \$168 million from casinos in 2019. Tax rates at casinos are much higher. the report points out, and far fewer people engage in sports betting than other gambling activities. The report also notes that it is unclear how quickly legal sports betting will

capture the illegal market. Because so little information about the impacts of sports betting is available, Volberg's team mined data from their own surveys and studies that are part of the robust and unprecedented research agenda ordered by the Legislature when lawmakers passed the Expanded Gaming Act in 2011.

Even though sports betting is not yet legally offered in Massachusetts, the researchers found "a substantial increase" in sports betting participation among an online panel surveyed in March, compared to eight

Volberg, emphasizing that the online panel is not representative of the general population, attributes the increase to the legalization of daily fantasy sports in Massachusetts and a nationwide deluge of sports betting advertising.

A representative survey of 8,000 adults was completed in Massachusetts earlier this year and will provide -- just prior to the legalization of sports betting -- a snapshot of changes in gambling behavior, attitude and problem-gambling prevalence since harms," Volberg said.

"We're being very careful to say we can't come to a conclusion until we see the general population survey data," Volberg added, which is being analyzed in the coming

Even though maximizing revenue is not the same as maximizing the economic benefits for the state, for maximum economic impact the report recommends issuing licenses for online operators, since most sports betting is done online, and licensing a variety of online oper-

"While it is likely that sports book operators, including landbased and online operators, will benefit from sports betting legalization in Massachusetts, it is difficult to predict whether sports bettors will add legal sports betting to their repertoire or simply substitute betting on sports for spending on other types of gambling," the report

The report also suggests that advertising be well-regulated to protect vulnerable groups not previously involved in sports betting, including young adults and women, adolescents, immigrants, college athletes and those in recovery from gambling problems.

Volberg noted that only four states have funded any kind of research about sports betting, while 12 have provided funding for problem-gambling services. This stands in contrast to Massachusetts, where 9% of the tax revenue raised from sports betting will go into the Public Health Trust Fund that supports the rigorous research agenda and services to mitigate gambling-related

"We are in a unique position in Massachusetts to be able to monitor the impacts of sports betting as it becomes legal and make adjustments to its provision so as to maximize the benefits and minimize the

Business

Country Bank promotes Lisa Saletnik

WARE - Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, announces Lisa Saletnik has been promoted to Vice President of Business Systems Optimization, according to a press release.

Saletnik holds an Associate's Degree from Bay Path University in Health Science and graduated from The New England School for Financial Studies.

She has been with Country

Bank for 23 years and has extensive experience in the bank's core systems and digital technologies.

Having worked in various departments at the bank, she found her passion in the Information Technology and Innovation Department in 2018.

Before joining the IT Department, she managed the eServices area for eight years. ners to continue to find the best Prosperity," said Siegel.

solutions to help the bank best serve its internal and external customers.

"I am thrilled to congratulate Lisa on her promotion and all of the accomplishments that got her here; she is a key part of our success," said Miriam Siegel, First Senior Vice President of Human Resources. "These team members embody our corporate val-Saletnik has been instrumental in ues of iSTEP – Integrity, Service, working with vendors and part- Teamwork, Excellence and

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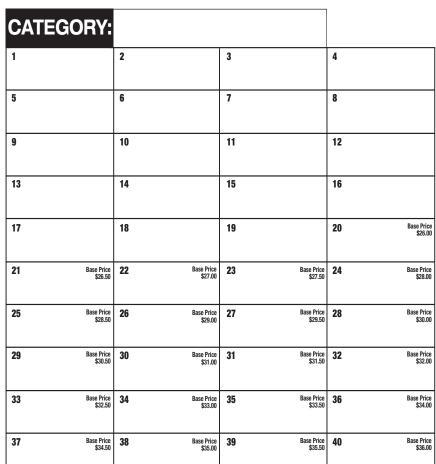
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WARE RIVER NEWS

Public Notices

Town of New Braintree PUBLIC HEARING

Upon the petitions of National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., the Select Board of New Braintree has scheduled a public hearing on Monday, December 12, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the New Braintree Town Hall.

Plan marked jointly for National Grid and Verizon New England Inc. No. 30641881 dated October 4, 2022, for permission to install 1 JO Pole on Charles Lane Rd. beginning at a point approximately 40 ft west of the centerline of the intersection of Moore Rd. and continuing approximately 2,000 ft in a south direction. Installing 14 poles along west side of Charles Lane Rd. to feed 214 Charles Lane Rd.

Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the

purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes. Copy of map of pole

Board office if you would like to review. The public is welcome

petition is in the Select

to attend. Erin Ballard, **Executive Secretary** 11/24,12/01//2022

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