In a week that started with the declaration of a public health emergency for New Jersey (March 9),
continued with the cancellation/postponement of most professional sports seasons (March 12) and ended
with the closure of Atlantic City’s casinos (March 16); much changed for Atlantic City and the state as a
whole.
The March casino revenue report from the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement (DGE) provides
us with the first direct measurement of how COVID-19 is impacting casino revenue. As anticipated, with
barely two weeks of operation, brick-and-mortar gambling in March 2020 fell short of 2019, and with
most professional sports leagues suspending or postponing their seasons, sports wagering also fell behind
year-over-year. Unlike brick-and-mortar gambling, sports wagering can continue during the shutdown via
online and mobile platforms provided gamblers have something to wager on. Sportsbooks nationwide
have been getting creative offering odds on international sports and events that wouldn’t, under normal
circumstances, be on the radar. The shortage of mainstream sporting events to bet on has also, to a degree,
accelerated the acceptance of wagering on non-traditional contests such as competitive video gaming
tournaments.
Internet gaming is the current MVP for casino operators, continuing to grow in popularity and generate
significant revenue for the industry. In March 2019 internet gaming ($ 31.9 million) represented 14.3% of
total gaming revenue ($273.7 million) in March 2020 internet gaming ($64.8 million) represents 41.4% of
total gaming revenue ($156.7 million).
Atlantic City Information
24th annual East Coast Gaming Congress & NexGen Forum rescheduled - As reported by The Press
of Atlantic City, Atlantic City’s largest annual gaming conference has been postponed from April 27-28
to October 26-27 out of concerns related to the coronavirus.
Atlantic City casinos donate excess food - According to The Press of Atlantic City, all nine of Atlantic
City’s casinos donated food to the region’s food banks, community centers and social service agencies.
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Maryland Senate unanimously passes sports betting bill - According to Legal Sports Report, on
March 10, Maryland Senators unanimously passed (SB 4) which would legalize sports betting in the state.
The bill allows wagering on professional and collegiate teams, including college teams in Maryland, as
well as wagering on esports events sanctioned by an esports governing entity. The bill includes no
integrity fee nor mandate to use official league data. Revenues would be taxed at 20%.

Michigan become the 16
th
 state to launch legal sports betting - According to Legal Sports Report

Washington Governor signs sports betting bill into law- According to Legal Sports Report,
Washington state Governor, Jay Inslee signed into law on March 25 ESHA 2638, a bill allowing tribal
casinos to offer sports betting with mobile sports betting limited, by geofence, to tribal properties.
Hospitality & Tourism News
Atlantic City being considered as host for NBA playoffs - As reported by The Press of Atlantic City,
a source with the NBA shared that Atlantic City, along with Orlando, Hawaii and Louisville, is being
considered as a possible host should the NBA choose to have its playoffs in a single location this year.
The NBA suspended its season on March 11 due to the coronavirus pandemic; it is unclear when the
season will resume.
Cape May County advises private campgrounds to push back seasonal opening - As reported by
NJ.com, officials in Cape May County, N.J. announced a recommendation that private campgrounds in
their jurisdiction postpone opening until May 11 in an effort to reduce and discourage visitation during
the coronavirus outbreak. The campgrounds typically open for business in April, around Easter weekend.
South Jersey Transportation Authority considers toll increase- As reported by NJ.com, on March 18
the South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA) voted to set public hearing dates for a proposed
‘revenue enhancement’ and capital program. The Atlantic City Expressway is the third toll road in New