



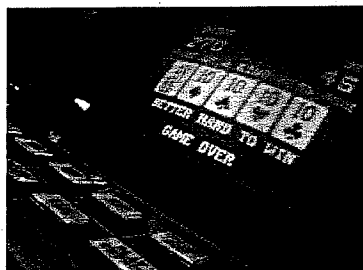
ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

December 31, 2013

Video Gambling Alert

Loophole in law could allow unregulated gambling machines



Chicago Tribune

When Illinois Legislators quickly passed the Video Gambling Act in 2009, they said they were going to rid the state of illegal gambling machines in bars. During the spring Legislative session, HB 1140 was quickly passed as a "clean up bill" for video gambling. There was no discussion prior to the vote, even though ILCAAAP had testified in committee that the bill could bring in so called "grey machines" from out of state companies. We cautioned that companies and bars that were denied a video gambling license from the Illinois Gaming Board could get these machines. These machines could also be placed in the City of Chicago and other communities that have bans on video gambling.

The Chicago Tribune reported on new sweepstakes machines that are coming to Illinois as a result of this new law.

The Illinois Gaming Board (IGB) became aware that Electronic Product Promotion Sweepstakes Kiosks (Devices) had entered the Illinois market and declared the machines to be illegal. These Devices allow a patron to insert cash and purchase credits in addition to receiving a coupon that can be redeemed via a website. The patron is then able to wager credits by playing electronic sweepstakes games that look like casino style slots. [Read more:](#)

According to the Gaming Board, promoters of these devices argue that the purchase paid into the kiosks is for a coupon and not for the wagering credits. However, courts from New York, Indiana, Ohio, Alabama, North Dakota, Florida, Hawaii, and North Carolina have all rejected this argument.

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Video gambling interests working to overturn bans in municipalities

Many new Mayors, Aldermen, and Village Trustees were elected during the April, 2013 municipal elections. Video gambling interests are approaching these new officials in communities that have banned video gambling to ask that they revisit the issue.

The communities of Island Lake, Tinley Park, Woodridge, Niles, and Long Grove will have hearings or votes on video gambling in early January. **If you live in or near these communities, please contact the Mayor and Aldermen to ask that they keep the BAN on video gambling.**

**We must remain ever vigilant and not give up or give in.
Blessings in the New Year!**

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