

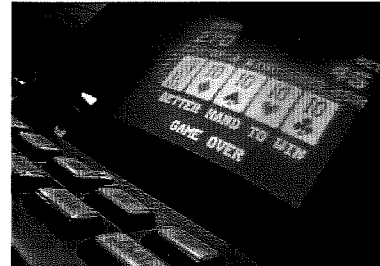


ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

February 11, 2014

Gambling Action Alert



The House and Senate were in session just one day in January, yet they managed to pass a gambling expansion bill.

The Senate amended an unemployment bill (SB 11) and transformed it into a gambling expansion bill on January 30th. SB 11 extended Internet wagering on horse racing for three more years and expanded the number of Off Track Betting parlors for race tracks located in Cook County (6 additional parlors). The Senate passed SB 11 before the governor gave his State of the State address, and the House passed the bill after the speech. Governor Quinn signed the bill into law that same afternoon.

Increased competition is making it more difficult for casinos to keep locals employed and pass along hefty payments to host states-which are the two biggest selling points for allowing gambling in the first place. However, this isn't stopping Illinois and other states from trying to expand gambling. **[Click to read the article](#)**

With pension issues out of the way and the state in dire need of cash, gambling proponents are working to pass a massive gambling expansion bill this year. The bill would also include a city owned casino for Chicago, land-based casinos in Rockford, Danville, Lake County, south suburbs of Chicago, and slot machines in Chicago airports. The Associated Press reported the bill would allow current and future casino license holders to apply for an online gambling license. **[Click to read more](#)**

I spoke with Rep. Rita, who said the Internet gambling language might have been in the Senate version of the bill (SB 1739), but he did not want Internet gambling included in the House version he is working on.

State forecasters told Illinois lawmakers casino revenue has declined, and will probably continue to do so. **[Click to read more](#)**

Americans lost \$119 billion gambling last year - more than any other country.
[Click to read more](#)

Rep. Robert Rita, the House sponsor of the massive gambling expansion bill (SB 1739), is holding public hearings. The next one is scheduled for **Monday evening, February 17th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Tinley Park Convention Center, 18451 Convention Center Drive.** This hearing is related to a casino in the South Suburbs. If you live in the South Suburbs, plan to attend. **[Click for more information](#)**

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

The General Assembly is not in session this week. Call or visit your State Representative ([Click for a list of State Representatives](#)) and State Senator ([Click for a list of State Senators](#)) in their District offices and ask them to Vote NO SB 1739 and all gambling expansion bills.

Contact Governor Quinn and ask him to OPPOSE SB 1739 and other bills to expand gambling. E-mail ([Click for a link to e-mail the Governor](#)) or Phone: 800-642-3112, 217-782-6830, 312-814-2121.

The Primary election is March 18. Please ask those running for Legislative office in your district to tell you their position on gambling issues. [Click to download the candidate survey](#). Then relay their answers to ILCAAAP.

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