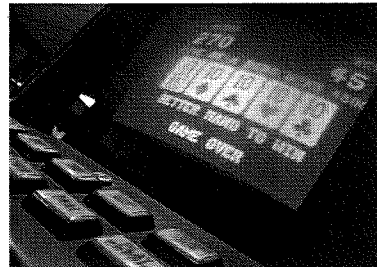




Gambling Action Alert May 5, 2015

Gov. Rauner "open" to considering a Chicago casino



The House Executive Committee met in Chicago yesterday for the first of two hearings on a massive expansion of gambling in Illinois. The details and language of the bills are still being worked out.

While Governor Rauner has reservations about more gambling, he said, "I think it [gambling] causes some negatives in our communities, as well as positive. It certainly can be a job creator, and a tax revenue generator, so those are both two good things. [Read more](#)

Chicago Mayor Emanuel is trying to sell legislators on a Chicago casino he wants to use to shore up the city's severely underfunded police and firefighter pension funds. The governor could try to leverage gambling expansion to win support for parts of his "turnaround agenda", according to the [Chicago Sun-Times](#).

Gambling is an unstable source of revenue. Counting on people to lose money at a casino to get revenue to fund pensions for police and firefighters is a terrible idea!

The *Chicago Tribune* reported that Mayor Rahm Emanuel held three meetings within the past 10 days to pitch the idea of a Chicago casino with Legislative leaders and the governor. Rauner said he is open to considering a casino for Chicago, but "wants to make sure that it's good for all the taxpayers and all the citizens, both of Chicago and the state of Illinois, when we have that discussion." [Read more](#)

Massive gambling expansion is still a bad bet for Illinois, and Chicago should neither own nor regulate a casino, according to an editorial in *The Rock Island Argus*. It is no accident that nearly every U.S. casino is owned either by private enterprises or Native American tribes. The potential for political corruption and the financial exposure publicly owned gaming operations present for taxpayers make such unprecedented government control over a gaming operation a bad bet. [Read more](#)

Illinois has turned to gambling as a way to boost revenue before, but attempts to increase casinos failed when former Gov. Quinn twice vetoed massive gambling expansion bills that passed in the Legislature, reported [NBC Chicago](#). **Governor Rauner is key to stopping this massive expansion of gambling.**

A Chicago casino has seemed inevitable since 1994, but your calls and letters made the difference. Please Contact the Governor's office today!

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

- Contact Governor Rauner's office to ask him to oppose a casino in Chicago and a massive expansion of gambling, Tell him "NO MORE GAMBLING". Call (800-642-3112, 217-782-0244, or 312-814-2121) or e-mail <https://www2.illinois.gov/gov/pages/contactthegovernor.aspx>
- Write a Letter to the Editor.
- Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to CALL and PRAY.
- Forward to 10 others.

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