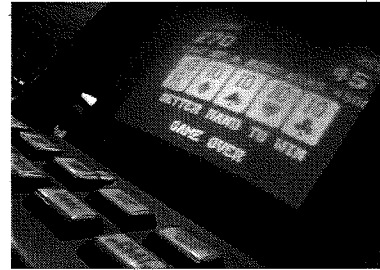




May 27, 2015

Gambling Action Alert Gambling Bill May Be In Trouble



Lobbyists for the City of Chicago are scurrying around the capitol attempting to pass a gambling expansion bill, but are having some trouble, *Capitol Fax* reported today. The governor is reportedly in no mood to cooperate, and the city's firefighters union is angry that the mayor wants to lower initial payments into the fund and lengthen the repayment schedule, which could lead to insolvency.

The *Chicago Tribune* reported Mayor Rahm Emanuel is trying to solve his police and fire pension problem by getting some of the money to cover what the city owes from a Chicago casino. Although it would take years to build a casino, if indeed the General Assembly can pass a bill, there's been **talk of quickly setting up gambling either at Chicago hotels or a temporary facility.**

But a casino might not generate enough money to cover the tab, so aldermen could be asked to raise property taxes, said Ralph Martire, executive director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability. **"They are going to need property tax revenue to fund it [pensions], he said. "The amount of gaming revenue is suspect."** [Read more](#)

More gambling in Illinois not a revenue solution, says U of I expert

During the 1990s, the Chicago Crime Commission, the Better Government Association and the majority business community actively opposed a Chicago casino. The socio-economic **costs to the taxpayers are \$3 to \$6 in taxpayer costs for every \$1 in projected new tax revenues.**

Gambling facilities "cannibalize" 50 percent or more of pre-existing tourism. **Chicago's world class museums and tourist attractions will lose thousands of patrons to a Chicago casino.** Studies show that gamblers are not tourists.

The public should be outraged that casinos now want authorization to become quasi-governments unto themselves (as they have already done in Las Vegas). [Read more](#)

Casino Queen would buy nearby racetrack if law changed

The owner of the Casino Queen said Tuesday it will buy Fairmount Park Race Track if Illinois law is changed to allow slot machines at racetracks. The deal would also need

approval by the Illinois Gaming Board, reported the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Prospects for industry expansion brightened recently as a result of news that Rauner, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and legislative leaders had met to discuss creating a Chicago casino along with gambling venues in the Chicago suburbs. [Read more](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1.
 - o Call your State Legislators (Capitol Switchboard 217-782-2000) and tell them NO MORE GAMBLING.
 - o [Contact Governor Rauner](#) and tell him not to cut a "deal" for Chicago on gambling - NO MORE GAMBLING.
 - o Write a Letter to the Editor
 - o Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to CALL and PRAY
 - o Forward to 10 others.

Click here to donate to Illinois Churches in Action.

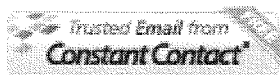
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