



September 2, 2015

Gambling Update and Alert



Even though a fall veto session has not been scheduled, Legislators are voting to override bills the governor has vetoed. **A gambling bill could be amended and called for a vote quickly at any time.**

If Chicago ever gets a casino, a health care nonprofit wants part of the income to fund mental health services, *Crain's Chicago Business* reported.

A Chicago Health & Disability Advocates report noted,
*Studies have shown that **problem gamblers are at increased risk for several psychiatric diagnoses, including depression, anxiety disorders, antisocial personality disorder, and alcoholism, and they are also at risk of suicide.** It follows then that the presence of a casino should be accompanied by an increased commitment to mental health services.*

The group recommends that if Chicago gets a casino, 2% of the annual gross income should support mental health services. However, Mayor Emanuel has promised that revenue from a Chicago casino would go toward paying police and firefighter pensions.

Rivers Casino in Des Plaines was fined \$2 Million, and the licenses of two of its top managers suspended for missteps in the execution of some of its promotions and failure to obtain the minimum required number of contract bids, reported *Journal & Topics*. The approval of gambling promotions was also suspended for a minimum of 60 days. [Read more](#)

When Des Plaines signed the agreement several years ago to host Illinois'

10th casino, officials were assured that Rivers would be the final casino allowed to operate in the state. That, they say, is why they inked the agreement that funnels millions of dollars to the 10 benefiting suburbs. Now that lawmakers are moving closer to allowing as many as five new casinos, **local officials are meeting behind closed doors to weigh options.** [Read more](#)

Illinois Lottery winners have to wait for payouts over \$25,000 until a budget is passed. State Rep. Jack Franks (D-Marengo), a frequent critic of the state's handling of the Lottery said, "Our government is committing a fraud on taxpayers, because we're holding ourselves out as selling a good, and we're not-we're not selling anything. The lottery is a contract."

One lottery winner who has not been paid said **delays in payment will discourage people from playing because it will seem like false hope that they will win.** "Who do you think buys lottery tickets most of the time? Rick said. "Not millionaires. People who don't have a lot of money." [Read more](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. **Contact your** State [Senator](#) and [Representative](#) in their District offices and ask them to OPPOSE all gambling expansion - **NO MORE GAMBLING.**
2. **Contact Gov. Rauner** and ask him to OPPOSE all gambling--NO MORE GAMBLING. **Call:** 217-782-6830, 312-814-2121, and 800-642-3112 or [E-mail](#)
3. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to PRAY and CALL.
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