



**December 23, 2015**

## **Gambling Update and Alert**



### **Cook County Wins Slot Machine Tax Fight with Rivers Casino**

The owners of the Rivers Casino in Des Plaines lost a three-year court battle over a slot machine tax approved by the Cook County Board. Midwest Gaming took the case to the Illinois Supreme Court, which has declined to hear the appeal, meaning the tax will stay in place.

The county's tax on slot machines at casinos is \$1,000 per machine, and the tax on video gambling machines in local establishments in the County is \$200 per machine. [Read more](#)

### **A city-owned Chicago casino is a bad idea**

There are no city-owned casinos anywhere in the United States. Casino revenues are falling nationwide and in Illinois. . . . A new study found there is no safe level of gambling, even at relatively low levels of losses. Electronic gaming machines (slot and video gambling machines) were the most strongly associated with problem gambling in every country in the study. [Read more](#)

### **Dog Racing Ends at Bluffs Run - This could happen with slots at horse tracks!**

Dog racing began in Council Bluffs in 1986 after Bluffs Run was built, but dog racing had been popular in the area long before then. While the track drew large crowds in its early years, **interest in dog racing declined over the years**, according to Guidry, and he and other **casino officials sought to end it for good because of the lack of interest. It was only continued casino subsidies that kept Bluffs Run running.** [Read more](#)

### **Daily Fantasy Sports likely tied to Online Gambling In PA - This could happen in Illinois!**

In Pennsylvania, the current plan is to include Daily Fantasy Sports betting in a gambling expansion package in 2016. They'll come back with their recommendations and how they can regulate it and make it part of our gaming oversight," Payne said. [Read more](#)

### **NY Gaming commission: Don't give Lottery scratch-off tickets to kids**

By giving minors scratch-off tickets as a gift, Maney said, **it sends a message that**

**gambling doesn't carry negative consequences.** Moreover, **the earlier someone predisposed to developing a gambling problem "makes their first gamble," the more likely he or she will develop a problem.**

"We can't think of this in a vacuum as a one time event; it's the beginning of a gambling career," Maney said. **"Every gambling problem that I've seen started with a first gamble, and who is going to be next?"** [Read more](#)

## Hospitality and Gambling Interests Delay Closing of Billion-Dollar Federal Tax Loophole

... The class of companies whose fate was in play was relatively limited, so the **lobbyists involved teamed up, holding a series of conference calls and devising a "fix."** They even **came up with a draft of the proposed language that could be inserted into the tax bill,** two lobbyists involved in the effort said, asking that they not be identified because they were not authorized to discuss confidential negotiations. [Read more](#)

### FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. **Write a note or contact** your [State Senator](#) and [State Representative](#) **prior to the start of the spring Legislative Session (January 13)** and tell them NO MORE GAMBLING and let them know that you are PRAYING for them.
2. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
3. **Forward** to 10 others.

***Thank you for your help this year. We really appreciate working with you to prevent the expansion of gambling and gambling problems. Merry Christmas!***

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