



**June 1, 2017**

## **Gambling Alert and Session Wrap**



### **Video gambling expansion**

SB 209 was introduced in the Senate Gaming Committee at 8:30 a.m. on May 30th and called for a vote at 10:30 p.m. on May 31st, the last day of session. The bill **doubles the maximum bet on video gambling** from \$2 to \$4, **increases the jackpot** from \$500 to \$1,199, **legalizes progressive jackpots up to \$10,000**, authorized establishments to **give incentives** for video gambling, and allows terminal operators to **reimburse establishments for 50% of advertising**.

Sen. Dave Syverson had requested an amendment for the bill not to go into effect **unless SB 7 became law**. However, sponsor **Sen. Terry Link withdrew the amendment and called for a vote**. The sponsor said there was NO opposition to the bill, which was not true. ILCAAAP testified in committee to oppose SB 209.

**Senators had not read the bill, yet SB 209 passed with 37 YES, 13 NO, and 2 PRESENT.** [See how your Senator voted.](#)

### **Massive casino expansion**

SB 7 was scheduled to be heard in the House Executive Committee on Memorial Day. However, an amendment to put a casino in Springfield was blocked, and the bill was not heard. [Read more](#)

Expansion of gambling is an issue that will likely return this summer, according to the *State Journal Register*. Rep. Rita Mayfield, sponsor of SB 7, said an additional casino license for Springfield could be included in the bill if there is consensus from the legislators who represent the capital city. [Read more](#)

### **Internet Fantasy Sports Gambling and Internet Gambling**

Three Internet gambling bills were quickly introduced one day before the session ended. **SB 208** was amended in the Senate Gaming Committee to include language to legalize Internet Fantasy Sports Gambling and Internet Gambling for those who have casino, racetrack, and Advance Deposit Wagering licenses.

The internet gambling provision has been pushed hard by Rush Street Interactive, an online gambling business affiliated with the Rivers Casino in Des Plaines, whose owner is Neil Bluhm, a Chicago real estate and gambling executive. Bluhm has given more than \$500,000 in campaign contributions to lawmakers from both parties over the past 20 years, records show, the *Chicago Tribune* reported. [Read more](#)

The bill would be a massive expansion of gambling that brings in a minimal amount of tax dollars.  
[Read more](#)

**SB 208 was moved to third reading in the Senate on the final night of session.** The two bills scheduled to be amended in the House Executive Committee for Internet Fantasy Sports gambling (SB 1667) and Internet gambling (SB 1805) were not called in committee. However, Speaker Madigan said the House would be in "continuous session" and come in every Wednesday in June.  
**When the session is extended, SB 209 and other gambling bills could be called for a vote.**  
Stay tuned!

## FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. **Summer is a good time to meet Legislators.** Attend events where [Legislators](#) are present or make an appointment to visit your [Legislator](#) in their district office. Tell your Legislator of your concerns about gambling and ask him/her to oppose the gambling expansion bills.
2. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
3. **Forward** to 10 others.

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