

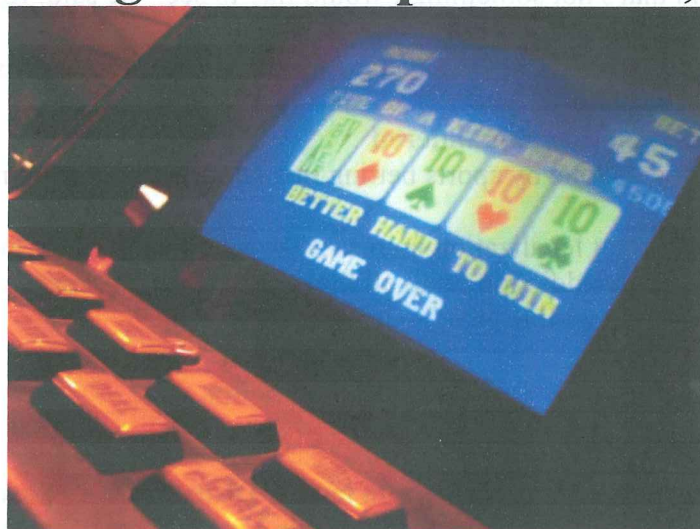
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ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

Gambling Alert - September 14, 2017



The Veto Session is Oct. 24-26, Nov. 7-9

Illinois now has a budget, but there is not enough revenue, despite an increase in income tax and borrowing to help pay part of the backlog of overdue bills. HB 479 to legalize Internet gambling at casinos and racetracks and Internet Fantasy Sports gambling passed in the Senate on the final night of the regular session and could be called for a vote in the House during the Veto Session.

The state commission released the report, *Wagering in Illinois 2017 Update* this week. [Read](#)

Five years after introduction, study says video gambling leading to crime upticks

A new report claims that the societal costs of gambling may not be worth the tax revenue.

. . . Nicolas Bontan, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Illinois and the study's author, said there is rarely ever conclusive proof that something causes crime, but **there is a strong correlation in regard to the proliferation of these machines.**



"After these machines started popping up, that's when you see the trends in crime starting to diverge in these areas," he said. **"It's mostly driven by problems related to problem gambling and addiction."** [Read more](#)

Video gaming continues to grow

Some communities have begun to reconsider the financial and social costs of unlimited video gambling. The Champaign City Council in June voted on a second extension for the initial moratorium on new terminals. Washington approved a two-month moratorium in August, and the Aurora City Council is scheduled to vote on a six-month pause Tuesday. [Read more](#)

While **Springfield sees the most terminals**, Mayor Jim Langfelder hopes that growth has slowed down in the city. "Some entities you wouldn't typically think of requesting a liquor license, like nail salons and barber shops, now want them in order to have video gaming, and that's not something I would like to see." he said. [Read more](#)

Our View: We're No. 2! Rockfordians love to bet at video terminals [Read](#)

Time, Treasure and Future Squandered

NY Sports Jock was undone by sports betting in a society that increasingly accepts it

Research also shows that legalization increases the incidence and frequency of gaming, and spurs more addiction, with all the social costs-bankruptcy, crime, family disruption-that go along with it. [Read more](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Contact your [State Representative](#) in his/her District office. Share the information in this Alert and ask him/her to Vote NO on HB 479 and oppose gambling expansion.
2. Call the [Governor's office](#) and ask him to oppose HB 479 and all bills to expand gambling. More gambling will increase costs and harm. (Phone: 217-782-6830 or 312-814-2121)
3. Share this Alert with your faith community.
4. Forward to 10 others.

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