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Gambling Alert - September 26, 2107

Call Legislators to Oppose Gambling Expansion in Veto Session



How do Illinois Legislators pass a gambling bill? Tie it to revenue for a capital construction plan. That's how video gambling was introduced and passed in a little over 24 hours in 2009. Now, Legislators are meeting behind closed doors to discuss another capital construction plan.

State Sen. Dave Syverson, R-Rockford, said there's already a billion dollars outstanding from the 2009 capital plan that could be covered by expanding gambling. Part of the changes in the gambling expansion bill, Syverson said, is **for video gaming to allow higher bets.**

... But state Rep. David McSweeney, R-Barrington Hills, said taxpayers should be wary because **legislative leaders are meeting behind closed doors to decide on a plan.** [Read more](#)

In Illinois, beware of pork disguised as 'capital'

In 2009, Gov. Pat Quinn and the legislature signed off on a massive \$31 billion capital improvement bill backed by video gambling revenue, online lottery profits, sales taxes on candy and alcohol, and increased vehicle fees. Quinn and lawmakers gleefully embarked on ribbon-cutting ceremonies statewide.

But of course, **the revenue projected to finance the projects did not meet expectations.** Some of the **promised projects were never completed**, even though

millions had been spent on engineering and planning costs. The **promise of a jobs windfall didn't happen either.** [Read more](#)

Illinois Lottery selects UK firm for \$2.2B private management contract

The Illinois Lottery has awarded a \$2.2 billion private contract to a British gambling firm, paving the way for new management at the state's maligned moneymaking venture.

A 14-day "protest period" began on Friday, meaning that if no challenges are submitted, state lottery officials will execute the 10-year contract with Camelot Illinois. [Read more](#)

Jim Dey: Video gambling putting heat on casinos

The casinos' real competition, however, is not one another, but the small video-gambling establishment popping up all over the states. Located in gas stations, bars and restaurants and even mom-and-pop gambling fronts like Lacy's Place and Dotty's, the **video terminals are poised for further expansion**, one that will test the limit of the public's appetite for gambling. [Read more](#)

The Veto Session begins in one month (Oct. 24-26 and Nov. 7-9)

The Senate passed 5 gambling bills in the Spring Session--two in the final hours.

HB 479 (Internet gambling at casinos/racetracks and Internet Fantasy Sports), **SB 7** (casinos in Chicago, Rockford, Danville, Lake Co., South Suburbs of Chicago, and racetracks), **SB 209** (doubles maximum bet on video gambling, increases jackpot to \$1,199, progressive jackpots), **SB 1427** (Internet Lottery), **SJR 26** (asks Congress to overturn the ban on sports betting).

For Immediate Action

Visit or call your State Representative at their district office and ask him/her to OPPOSE and vote NO on HB 479, SB 7, SB 209, SB 1497, SJR 26, and all other bills to expand gambling.

Visit or call your State Senator to let him/her know you are opposed to the expansion of gambling. Click the links to see the votes on [HB 479](#) , [SB 7](#) , [SB 209](#) , [SB 1427](#) .

Contact the governor and ask him to oppose all bills that expand gambling. Phone: 217-782-6830 or 312-814-2121.

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1132 W Jefferson
Springfield, IL 60702

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