



**March 19, 2015**

## **Gambling Action Alert**



The *Chicago Sun-Times* graciously contacted ILCAAAP to write a counterpoint opposing the Chicago casino proposals, and the following was published today:

"Casinos have closed in Atlantic City and Mississippi, and revenue at Illinois casinos has declined for several years. Gambling is an unstable source of revenue. Adding more casinos in Illinois will not solve the state's financial problems, and a massive casino gambling expansion in Chicago will create untold harm for years to come." [Read more.](#)

Read the [Chicago Sun-Times editorial](#) supporting a casino in Chicago. Mayor Rahm Emanuel would use money from a Chicago casino "toward shoring up the city's pension systems. In a Sun-Times candidate questionnaire, "Chuy" Garcia, Emanuel's opponent in the April 7th mayoral election, said he could support a casino in Chicago, if it is "fairly and effectively implemented".

**Many gambling bills have yet to be heard in committees, but next Friday, March 27, is the deadline to pass bills out of their respective chambers.** The following gambling bills could be heard in Senate Executive Committee:

- **SB 746** - Doubles number of video gambling machines at truck stops that sell over 50,000 gallons of diesel/biodiesel fuel a month and opens the door for video gambling expansion in all other establishments. (Truck stops are open 24/7 and have some of the highest video gambling losses in Illinois.)
- **SB 1382** - This is a horse racing bill that could be amended for a massive expansion of gambling.

The House Executive Committee could hear the following gambling bills next week:

- **HB 2939** - Massive Chicago casino would have 4,000 to 10,000 gambling positions
- **HB 3564** - Massive gambling expansion bill for slots at racetracks, Chicago and 4 land-based casinos in the counties of Vermillion, Lake, Winnebago, and South Suburb Township of Bloom Bremen, Calumet, Rich, Thornton, or Worth.

**The Will County Executive Board will hold a public hearing on a proposed ordinance to ban video gambling on Thursday, April 2, 2015** at 10:00 in the County Board Room, 302 N. Chicago St., in Joliet. All establishments that are currently licenses or have a

licenses pending would be exempt. **The public is invited and can make comments.** View the [ordinance online](#).

**Breaking news: Illinois Lottery director stepping down.**

## FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. If your State Representative is on the [House Executive Committee](#), ask him to Vote NO on HB 2939, HB 3564, and all gambling expansion bills.
2. If your State Senator is on the [Senate Executive Committee](#), ask him/her to Vote No on SB 746, SB 1382, and all gambling expansion bills.
3. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
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