



**April 27, 2015**

## **Gambling Action Alert**



### **Your calls are working.**

Many gambling bills were scheduled for committee hearings, but were postponed and not called by the sponsor. Today was the deadline to pass bills to the other chamber. However, we must remain vigilant as gambling bills can move quickly at the end of the session.

#### **These gambling bills are moving:**

##### **HB 335**

to make Advanced Deposit Wagering permanent or bets on horseracing on the Internet could be called for a vote in the House at any time.

##### **SB 1426**

for a special Lottery scratch-off ticket for Alzheimers passed in the Senate and will be heard in the House Revenue and Finance Committee next week.

##### **SB 1400**

to ban sweepstakes machines passed in the Senate and was sent to the House.

### **IDOT director calls for more reliable infrastructure funding**

Gambling revenues that have failed to meet expectation show the need for a more reliable, long-term source of transportation funding, the head of the Illinois Department of Transportation said. While there is no immediate crisis, Blankenhorn said, revenue from gambling would not be enough to sustain long-term infrastructure needs. [Read more](#)

### **Will County pulls plug on more video gambling**

The Will County Board voted 13 to 9 to prohibit further video gambling in unincorporated areas of the county. Existing video gambling machines in 27 locations and those businesses who applied for a gambling license prior to April 17, 2015 are exempt.

Board member Chuck Maher, R-Naperville, said that under the video gambling law the county gets \$50,000 for every \$1 million spent on video gambling - money that could be spent for family needs at other businesses instead of used at the machines. [Read more](#)

### **Local officials look to overturn bans on video gambling**

For fiscal year 2016, some local officials want to overturn bans on video gambling to address Gov. Bruce Rauner's proposed budget cuts that could mean a reduction in the municipality's share of the state income tax. Sleepy Hollow's finance committee "discussed the possibility of creating a revenue stream through video gambling".

However, [Village President] Pickett said the owners of La Bamba Mexican Restaurant and Cantina which recently opened in the former Cactus Zone building "want to get away from the bar crowd type of reputation." "They want to be more of a family restaurant than a bar," he said. Pickett said the village recently had an inquiry from someone about opening a video gaming cafe. He also noted a proposed coffee shop in the building that shares Advance Auto Parts will be coming before the Village Board for a special use permit. [Read more](#)

## FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. Please try to attend one of the "listening sessions" on infrastructure funding near you to echo the IDOT director's position that gambling is an unstable source of revenue that cannot solve the budget problems.
2. Send your Legislators a note reminding them to OPPOSE and Vote NO on ALL gambling expansion bills!
3. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
4. **Forward** to 10 others.

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