



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

March 14, 2014

Gambling Action Alert Revised Expansion Plans



Rep. Robert Rita (D-Blue Island), House sponsor of the massive gambling expansion bill, has two new proposals.

Under Rita's proposals, there would be a casino in Chicago, but it would be state-owned. Under this plan, Chicago and the State would split casino revenue 50-50, but the city would also have to share its take with Cook County government and some south suburb suburbs. There would be no new casinos issued, and horse tracks would not get slot machines. The state's share of revenue would be dedicated to education and capital construction projects. [Read more:](#)

Under the second proposal, a state-owned casino in Chicago would have up to 6,000 gambling positions. Additional casinos would be in the suburbs south of Chicago and in Lake, Winnebago, and Vermillion counties. Unlike earlier versions, Rockford and Danville are not specified as casino locations. Local revenue from those casinos could only be spent on capitol projects and pensions. [Read more:](#)

The idea for five casinos would allow 600 slot machines at each horse track in Cook County horse track and 450 per track outside the county, except for Fairmount Park in the Metro East suburbs of St. Louis. [Read more:](#)

At a hearing in East St. Louis earlier this year, many supporters of the Casino Queen and the city of East St. Louis said they were concerned about the impact on the casino if gaming machines were allowed at Fairmount. Supporters of the Casino Queen said the casino can't handle much more competition. And city officials said East St. Louis counts on the casino for 40 percent of its operating revenue. [Read more:](#)

The original gambling bill (SB 1739) could also be amended and taken over by a new sponsor.

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. Go to the ILCAAAP [web site](#) to view Candidate Surveys on gambling issues and view how those currently in office voted on gambling bills.
2. Vote in the Primary Election on March 18.

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