



May 13, 2016

Gambling Update & Alert



Two gambling bills passed in the Senate Executive Committee this week: **House Bill 335** would make Advanced Deposit Wagering (ADW) permanent. **This is Internet wagering on horse racing.** According to the Illinois Racing Board report, 8% of the ADW handle is on Illinois horses, and 92% of the bets are on out of state races. **This bill will not save live horse racing, but it will make wealthy track owners and betting companies richer.**

House Bill 940 - Expands video gambling by legalizing video gambling at **Off Track Betting Parlors**. The bill allows Hawthorne to increase their number of Off Track Betting Parlors from 6 to 16, and Arlington Park would get 18 OTB parlors instead of the 6 they currently own.

Sen. Link, sponsor of the bill, **held two other amendments to legalize 100 video gambling machines for each racetrack and legalize wagering on historical races (slot machines).**

Senate Bill 2216 would **legalize gambling on historical or past horse races--slot machines at racetracks**. There was no limit to the number of machines. SB 2216 will be heard in the House Exec. committee next week.

Senate Bill 513, to make **Internet Lottery sales permanent**, was heard in the House Revenue Committee today. In 2015, \$17.3 million in Lottery tickets were sold on the Internet. The State only receives 26% to 28% of the money from the sale of these tickets, or \$4.6 million. The pilot program only permitted the sale of 3 tickets--Lotto, Multi-state, and Powerball.

The Lottery is seeking a new private management company. If Internet Lottery sales are made permanent, a new company could start

selling scratch-off tickets online, heavily market online sales, and increase the daily limit, which is currently set at \$150 for individuals. Illinois residents 18 and older would lose millions of dollars gambling online, and gambling addiction could increase.

During the Senate Executive Committee meeting, Senators said they didn't want to vote on piece mill gambling bills but were working toward putting together one gambling bill. The Legislative session is scheduled to end on May 31st, and there is still no budget or agreement on funding pensions.

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. **Contact your State Senator** (217-782-2000 Capitol Switchboard) and ask that he/she **Vote NO on HB 335 and HB 940** to expand gambling.
2. Call your **State Representative** ((217-782-2000 Capitol Switchboard) and ask that he/she **Vote NO on SB 513** and **SB 2216** to expand gambling.
3. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
4. **Forward** to 10 others.

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