



January 4, 2017

Gambling Action Alert

SB 513 Internet Lottery bill in Committee hearing Jan. 9th



Legislators will be back in session on January 9th, and the Inauguration for newly elected Legislators is January 11th. The Legislature has not passed a budget in 18 months and the Chicago Tribune has been investigating the Illinois Lottery payouts. While the budget issue should be the focus of this short session, the House Revenue and Finance Committee will turn its attention to Internet Lottery.

The Internet Lottery **pilot program was limited to the sale of three types of Lottery tickets**. **SB 513 makes the Internet Lottery permanent and greatly expands the program to ALL games offered at retail locations--including Scratch-off tickets--and "interactive instant win games", such as Keno**, with the Director's approval.

Purchasing scratch-off tickets online would allow anyone 18 and older to quickly scratch and purchase more tickets immediately, similarly to playing "free games" online. There are **insufficient safeguards to prevent underage gambling**. This could result in more problem and pathological gambling.

A new private manager could market the Internet Lottery program more aggressively, especially to young people who rely more heavily on purchases through the Internet. Currently Illinois residents can purchase \$150 worth of lottery tickets a day on the Internet, but **the daily rate could be increased without Legislative approval if SB 513 becomes law**. Gamblers could lose their house with the click of a mouse.

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. Contact your current State Representative and ask him/her to Vote NO on SB 513 to expand Internet Lottery.
2. Contact Governor Rauner or CALL (217-782-6830) and ask him to OPPOSE the expansion of Internet Lottery to all Lottery tickets and Keno. Illinois residents will lose millions of dollars gambling on the Lottery online. This is a terrible way to raise money and comes with a high cost of addiction, bankruptcy, crime, and family problems.
3. Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to CALL and PRAY.

4. Forward to 10 others.

Lottery Scratch-off payouts got little oversight

The Chicago Tribune reported that for the lottery's 17 biggest scratch-off games under Northstar's management, the lottery did not award more than 40 percent of the grand prizes designed into the games. Northstar **said it had the state's blessing on how it began, ran and ended games.**

Federal authorities **mandated that states keep "actual control over all significant business decisions made by the lottery enterprise."** [Read more](#)

The sneaky math that made the lottery more alluring - and harder to win

Few people actually win, and the volume of spending on the Lottery is \$73 Billion a year and growing. [Read more](#)

Police: Lottery win may have prompted kidnapping, death

A Peoria man accused of kidnapping two people from their central Illinois home, including one who later died, may have targeted them because he knew they had won the lottery, authorities said. [Read more](#)

Bank Robberies Spike in Chicago Area in 2016

"Bank robbers rob banks for one or a multiple of three reasons: drugs, alcohol, and gambling," said an FBI investigator. [Read more](#)

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