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Gambling Alert - June 28, 2018



The Illinois Racing Board advanced a proposal to allow historical horse racing gambling machines even as the board's attorney advised that the move would be illegal, the [Chicago Tribune](#) reported.

The Illinois General Assembly has had several opportunities to pass legislation to legalize historical racing machines, but has not done so.

The former General Counsel to the Illinois Racing Board wrote a memo to the Board on this issue. Katherine Laurent wrote, *"A strong argument could be made that the Horse Racing Act does not authorize pari-mutuel wagering on historical races. If not authorized by state statute, the Illinois Racing Board should not promulgate rules to allow pari-mutuel wagering on historical races."*

These gambling machines look like slot machines. An activist from Idaho, who opposes historical racing machines, said, "A horse slot representative from Kentucky admitted to me that their **gamblers bet every eight seconds on average**. Nobody analyses horses in eight seconds."

Another activist from Nebraska visited traveled to Ellis Park in Henderson, Kentucky, on a fact finding mission to learn more about "historic horse racing" machines. She found:

- The machines look exactly like slot machines and play nearly as fast

- All the machines were set on slot machine mode.
- Any payout came based on slot machine calculations. The machine did not let her know if she won or lost based on the horse she picked. There were times when she picked the winning horse, but lost because the winning horse number was on a row she had not paid to play!

The Illinois Racing Board does not have the authority to approve the installation of historical racing machines without Legislative approval.

For Immediate Action

Contact your State Representative and Senator to let them know this is an expansion of gambling that you oppose. Ask Legislators to contact the Illinois Racing Board to tell them not to act on the issue of historic racing machines.

Contact Governor Rauner to tell him the Illinois Racing Board does not have the statutory authority to allow gambling machines at racetracks. Ask him to oppose this expansion of gambling.

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