



Gambling Alert - August 7, 2018



Rep. Robert Rita has scheduled two hearings on SB 7, which includes Internet gambling, Internet Sports gambling, and Fantasy Sports gambling-August 22 in Chicago and October 3 in Springfield.

Pew Charitable Trusts' Mary Murphy said policy makers shouldn't bank on such increased revenue being a steady stream. "States should consider that these gains may be short-lived in large part because of increased competition, and be cautious of directing this revenue toward ongoing expenditures," Murphy said. [Read more](#)

The hearings will be held by the subcommittees on Gaming and Sales and Other Taxes of which Rita is the sub-chairperson. **The goal of Rita's hearings is to educate lawmakers and develop a consensus ahead of the 2019 session.** Should legislation come out of the hearings, it would not be voted on until after the state's November mid-term elections. [Read more](#)

FanDuel and DraftKings are racing to open sports betting operations

For two years, DraftKings and FanDuel, the two leading "daily fantasy sports" companies, **spent most of their time fighting legal battles with state attorneys general, and arguing that their fantasy contests did not constitute gambling.** . . . DraftKings and FanDuel don't operate in Illinois, because state law deems their fantasy contests illegal gambling. And yet **the companies are now focusing full-steam-ahead on gambling.** [Read more](#)

Foreign Internet sports gambling companies flocking to U.S.

MGM signed a 25-year joint venture with a British company to provide online casino, poker, and sports betting.

Look at the list of foreign companies with experience in Internet gambling that could come to Illinois if gambling expands to the Internet and sports betting. [Read more](#)

[Senate Bill 7](#) is the massive expansion of casino gambling in Chicago, Rockford, Danville, Waukegan, South Suburbs, and racetracks and legalizes sweepstakes machines.

Sweepstakes gambling machines make a mockery of Illinois Video Gambling law For years, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel has been staunchly opposed to allowing video gambling machines at bars and restaurants in the city, hoping instead to land approval for one big downtown casino. But **unregulated devices that look and work almost exactly like video poker machines are popping up in places all over Chicago.** [Read more](#)

For Immediate Action

1. The first hearing will be in Chicago on Wednesday, **August 22, at 10:00 a.m.** in **Room C-600, on the 6th floor of the Michael Bilandic Building**, 160 N. LaSalle Ave. **If you live in or near Chicago, plan to attend.**
2. If your Representative is on these committees--Robert Rita, David Harris, Brian Stewart, Art Turner, Michael Zalewski, Marcus Evans, Greg Harris, Chad Hays, David Reis-- please **call to let him know you oppose SB 7.**
3. **Share this Alert** with your faith community.
4. **Forward** to 10 others.

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