

Date Changed to October 17 for Springfield Legislative Hearing



Gambling Alert - August 23, 2018



Legislative hearing on gambling expansion

. . . Three residents testified that expanded gaming would lead to increased gambling addiction, thefts and marital problems - especially among minorities, senior citizens and people with lower incomes.

"Video gaming is more addictive than other kinds of gaming," Jeannie Evans, of Chicago, said. "This brings in local people. This is not money from out of state ... Raising revenue off the backs of the poor and vulnerable is not the way to raise money."

Lawmakers heard CGFA testimony (that despite a projected \$1 billion in additional annual gross revenue from five new casinos and thousands of addition video gaming terminals, expanded gaming might net the state just \$12 million a year in additional tax revenue. [Read more](#) [COGFA power point](#)

Date for the gambling expansion hearing in Springfield changed to Oct. 17

The hearing at noon will mainly focus on legalizing Internet gambling, Sports gambling, and Internet fantasy sports gambling.

Why Chicago's Hedging on a City-Owned Casino

The Chicago casino would be owned by the city, and they are now saying "it may not be financially feasible" for Chicago, or a casino operator hired by the city, to pay an up-front cost of roughly \$120 million (a \$30,000 fee for each of the city's allotted 4,000 gaming positions), city lobbyist Victoria Watkins told lawmakers. [Read more](#)

Racehorse owner and former Governor supports Chicago Casino

The man Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan once called "Governor No-No" now backs a Chicago casino - if it means it'll help his beloved racetrack industry.

. . . Edgar's name - and his horses - were mentioned on Wednesday morning during a lengthy Illinois House subcommittee about a gaming expansion bill. . . . As for Edgar, the former two-term governor no longer races his more than 20 horses in Illinois, because the payout is much better in neighboring Indiana. [Read more](#)

Illinois Horse Racing Looks To Past Races To Secure Future

Critics say this is an expansion of gambling and only state lawmakers have the power to do that. . . . Beyond legal concerns, Bedell says historic horse racing games look a lot like the slot machines the industry has been lobbying for for years.

Jeffrey Brincat, chair of the Illinois Racing Board, **views the move as essentially a bandage until state lawmakers allow slot machines or other forms of gambling at the racetracks.** [Read more](#)

Tattoo parlor wants video gambling

SB 7 would expand video gambling to allow establishments to have 6 machines, double the maximum bet to \$4, increase jackpots, and allow unlimited progressive jackpots. There are almost 30,000 video gambling machines in Illinois neighborhoods, and now even more businesses want to add the machines. [Read more](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Ask your Legislators and/or Legislative Candidates to tell you their position on SB 7.
2. Share this Alert with your faith community.
3. Forward to 10 others.

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