



Gambling Alert - Jan. 16, 2019



Gov. wants more gambling - Investigation shows Video Gambling a losing bet

Governor Pritzker talks about gambling legislation to Belleville News Democrat

He noted that sports betting is a positive opportunity for the state, as is the expansion of casinos. Since balancing the budget is a priority for Pritzker, he admits to the desire for Illinois to benefit from additional revenue.

Regarding casinos, Pritzker acknowledged that some in the state are underperforming and revenue for existing casinos has been on a downswing for several years. But he feels that more strategically-placed casinos could bring more revenue into Illinois from neighboring states and capitalize on city centers that attract more tourists like Chicago. [Watch the interview](#)

How Illinois Bet on Video Gambling and Lost

ProPublica wrote a very timely article on how the Video Gambling Act was passed. Lawmakers wanted an infrastructure bill so badly that they promised their votes and quickly passed the flawed video gambling bill without ever reading the bill. Please [read](#):

*"At every key point, state officials made decisions that undercut taxpayers and helped the companies that market video gambling. Lawmakers accepted a far smaller share of the profits than what's charged in other states, giving the companies a much larger piece. They went forward with the program assuming the machines could be installed in Chicago - they couldn't. They ignored the inevitable regulatory and social costs. And they did not anticipate the extent to which video gaming would cut into casino profits, which are taxed at a higher rate. **The net effect: People in Illinois gambled a***

lot more, but most of the additional money ended up in the coffers of the companies behind video gambling."

Legislators and the governor are poised to repeat these same mistakes

One of the priorities for Legislators from both parties is to expand casino gambling and video gambling, legalize Internet gambling, Sports gambling, and Fantasy Sports gambling to pay for building and infrastructure projects! This has not worked in the past and it won't work in 2019. Please contact your state Legislators.

For Immediate Action

1. **Read the ProPublica article** and send it to your State Representative and Senator with a note asking them to OPPOSE all bills that expand gambling.
2. **Municipal elections are April 1.** Share the video gambling article with your local City Council and all candidates for local election. Many communities have overturned bans on video gambling after a new Mayor or council members were elected!
3. **Share this Alert with your faith community** and ask them to PRAY.
4. **Forward** to 10 others.

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