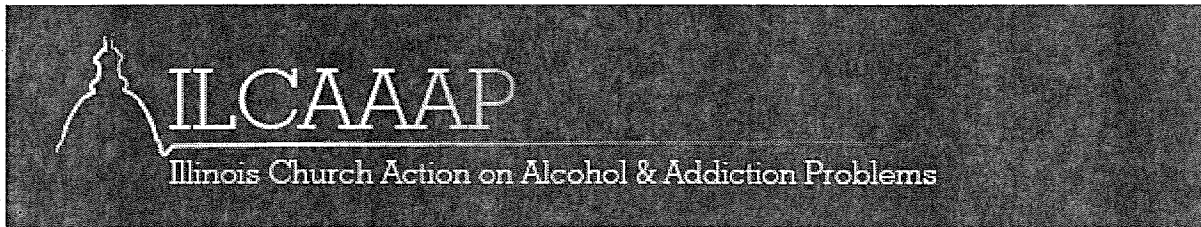


Video gambling put casino gambling in neighborhoods,  
sports gambling will put gambling in HOMES and on MOBILE devices!



## Sports Gambling Alert - Feb. 20, 2019



Governor Pritzker gave his first budget address today and told Legislators he **wants Illinois to be the first State in the Midwest to start Sports Gambling**. The governor said fees and taxes could be \$200 million this year. However, the revenue could be quite small if the gambling is taxed at 10%--the rate sports gambling companies recommend.

Rep. Michael Zalewski, who chairs the House Revenue and Finance Committee and sponsors a Sports Gambling bill said, "He's going to say he wants it but defer to the legislature to get it done, and it will be a huge challenge for us. I know everyone wants it and there's no reason not to do it but, as someone who has fought this fight, it's still going to be hard."

... "Every gaming bill in this state the last 10 years has collapsed under its own weight," Zalewski said. "It's a really hard topic because there's so many interests trying to get the best deal they can for themselves." [Read more](#)

Ten years ago, another new governor and Legislators quickly passed the Video Gambling Act to help fund an infrastructure and capital construction program. **How Illinois Bet on Video Gambling and Lost** recounts what happened:

"The way the General Assembly constructed the capital program, by relying on video gambling revenue that failed to materialize, accelerated the state's financial crisis," said Laurence Msall, president of the nonpartisan Civic Federation, a

government research organization.

Though lawmakers said money from video gambling and other new taxes and fees for Illinois Jobs Now! would fund \$31 billion in building projects, those revenue streams have accounted for \$10.5 billion in spending. [Read more](#)

Senator Bill Brady [issued a statement](#) after the budget address and said, "If we are going to put Illinois on a path forward; then **we need to learn from history, not repeat it.**"

**ProPublica published second article about video gambling and addiction.**

Illinois lawmakers have fixated on how much money video gambling has brought into state coffers, though a ProPublica Illinois/WBEZ investigation in January found that the revenue has fallen far short of the legislature's projections, even as video gambling saddled the state with unfunded social and regulatory costs.

**But Illinois doesn't know the extent of its gambling addiction problem or how it has changed as the number of gambling locations has grown.** [Read more](#)

Underage gambling and gambling addiction will increase if Legislators legalize gambling on sports over the Internet in homes and mobile devices. Illinois residents could gamble all night at home and/or at work on their cell phones. Teens could set up accounts using a parent's credit card and start gambling on sporting events from around the world and rack up debt for families.

*For Immediate Action*

1. Call your State [Representative](#) and [Senator](#) and ask them to OPPOSE the legalization of Internet and Sports gambling. Share the article, [How Illinois Bet on Video Gambling and Lost](#).
2. Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to PRAY and CALL.
3. Forward to 10 others.

Click here to donate to Illinois Churches in Action (tax deductible)

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