



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

Gambling Alert - April 1, 2019



HB 3661 will be called for a vote by the full House. **HB 3661 is a massive expansion to allow the Lottery to sell ALL tickets on the Internet.**

The Department of Justice reversed an opinion in January saying the Wire Act applies to non-sports gambling, like Lotteries. State lotteries have until June to bring their operations into compliance. Rather than follow the federal directive, the Illinois Lottery is rushing to expand the Internet Lottery pilot program.

The Illinois Lottery conducted a study and **found 61.4% of players polled-ages 18-24-had a low level of gambling literacy**, meaning they didn't understand that gambling isn't a good way to make money; that if you gamble more often, it won't necessarily mean you will win more than you lose, or that your chances of winning don't get better after you've lost. **These are the age groups that will be targeted to purchase Internet Lottery tickets.** [Read more](#)

[View data](#) to see the amount of Lottery sales in your zip code

House Hearing on Internet and Sports Gambling - HB 3308

"It will cost \$7 for every dollar they get in revenue," Bedell said. "This is a bad bet for the people of Illinois."

Bedell also said she has concerns that increasing gambling opportunities, including online sports and other betting, will open it up to young people, who become addicted to gambling. [Read more](#)

Many horses in race for legalized sports gambling in Illinois

Legislative momentum is in place to bring sports betting to Illinois, but it will take weeks of for all interested parties to get their opinions to lawmakers.

Lawmakers will work on the bill next week, and another hearing will be held the week of April 10th. [Read more](#)

Gambling interests spar over how sports betting should be run in Illinois

Gov. J.B. Pritzker's call for lawmakers to pass a bill legalizing sports betting without getting bogged down in the squabbles that have doomed previous gambling expansion efforts always looked like a long shot, and lawmakers' first public discussion of the issue during the spring legislative session showed why. [Read more](#)

Fantasy Gambling Company upset over sports gambling amendment

But early in the testimony, Midwest Entertainment and Casino representative Paul Gaynor used his public platform to rail against DraftKings and FanDuel, whom he referred to as "bad actors" guilty of "criminal conduct," in both Illinois and New Jersey.

Lottery company wants to operate sports gambling

Nick Papadoglou, Intralot's Chief Commercial Operator, spoke in favor of the lottery amendment. "We will offer the biggest return to the state," he said, and then shared a chart that shows why. "The biggest gaming brand in the state is the state lottery. It carries values like integrity and responsible gaming and it supports more than 10,000 retailers." [Read more](#)

Letter to Editor - Speak out against Sports gambling (applies to IL as well)

The latest excuse for expansion is tax revenue and ending illegal offshore gambling. The Legislature says these gamblers will switch to a casino and pay taxes. This is patently dishonest.

The industry wants internet gambling. They are after every cellphone and wallet. They openly admit their goal is real time, 24/7 gambling access - on every cellphone and video game. The sleeper, scarcely mentioned in Kaufmann's bill, is legalization of daily fantasy sports betting. Go online and watch how DraftKings operates in New Jersey - offering nearly every available sport and type of wager with relentless ads. FanDuel promotes its "Sports Betting Training Camp," instructing newcomers on how to bet!

This predatory industry uses advertising to exploit the neuroscience of addiction. Alarm bells have been ringing on children's dependence on digital screens and games. [Read more](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Call your State [Representative](#) and ask him/her to **Vote NO on HB 3661** and to **oppose HB 3308** to legalize Internet and sports gambling.
2. Write a Letter to the Editor to your local newspaper (250 words or less).
3. Come to the State Capitol on April 10th, from 10:00 to 2:00 for ILCAAAP's Lobby Day to talk with Legislators and ask them to **OPPOSE** more gambling.
4. Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to **PRAY**.
5. Forward to 10 others.

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

