



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

Gambling Alert - December 17, 2020



Governor Pritzker extended his executive order to allow online Sports Gambling registration for the sixth time on December 11. This order extends online Sports Gambling registration until January 9th so people can conveniently register and place bets on college football bowl games.

A [sports gambling website](#) recently noted, "According to reports, **the in-person registration requirement provision is likely to come up for discussion in General Assembly in January. Many believe the provision will be removed.**"

With casinos ordered closed, Illinois residents registering and placing bets on sports, horse racing, and the Lottery, and the State in need of revenue, we believe the Governor and legislators will push to legalize online casinos gambling, online Keno, and Internet sales of ALL Lottery tickets, especially "scratch off", which account for 2/3 of Lottery sales.

Using the pandemic as a excuse will make it easier for Legislators to pass this massive expansion of gambling online.

In October Illinois residents bet over \$430 Million on Sports

Of the \$434.6 million wagered, nearly \$410 million was on mobile with retail making up just \$24.8 million of the handle. That meant **94.3% of the action was on mobile**, according to the Illinois Gaming Board Sports Wagering report. [Read more](#)

DraftKings Gift Cards

You've probably seen the racks of physical gift cards for various brands in stores. Those retailers partner with finance companies like InComm Payments to gain access to customers in that way. Similar cards bearing DraftKings' logo will now start appearing at: 7-Eleven, Dollar General, and Speedway.

DraftKings is the first online gambling company to make this kind of a deal. . . . For a person with a compulsive gambling issue, just the mere sight of a gambling company's logo may act as a mental "trigger." [Read](#)

Balmoral Park is for sale

Storied harness racing track Balmoral Park near Crete, later converted to a horse show-jumping venue, is on the market with an asking price of \$4 million.

About a year ago, HITS confirmed it had a sale of the property pending with developer Phil Goldberg, who planned to reintroduce harness racing and develop a casino on the site.

Hurdles to his proposal for bringing gambling to the site include wording in legislation that permitted a horse track and casino to operate only in one of six south suburban Cook County townships, which would exclude the Balmoral property and include a reworking of the legislation. On top of that, **the deed from the 2016 sale of the property prohibits any type of gambling, including horse racing and casino gambling, on the property until 2026.** [Read](#)

Racetrack casinos are good for casinos, not Horse Racing

This has been bad news for racing, in that not only has land-based play declined, directly impacting the size of contributions to purses from slots, but customers have flocked to mobile play in droves. Land-based casinos are shuttered until after New Year's Day, potentially helping the interactive push even more.

While it is possible post-pandemic mobile play will decline sharply, betting against mobile play seems an odd choice considering the way our lives are impacted by mobile technology and its simplicity. **Give customers several months to acclimatize to the comfort of mobile slots play, and they might be gone from land-based play for good.** [Read more](#)

Rush Street to Enter West Virginia Online Gaming Market

Chicago-based Rush Street Interactive on Friday announced an agreement with Century Casinos to launch online casino in West Virginia at BetRivers.com.

. . .RSI, under BetRivers.com and PlaySugarHouse.com, operates online casinos in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and currently has online sportsbooks in Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. [Read](#)

Palos Heights Alderman wants Video Gambling Referendum

Council meetings in 2013 were filled with restaurant and bar owners in favor of allowing video gambling in their establishments and opposing citizens making passionate speeches against it. That July, the council voted 5-3 against it.

The issue was brought up again at the council meeting by Ald. Jerry McGovern (4th), who asked the council to consider putting a gambling question **on the April ballot** to help out local establishments that are taking financial hits because of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

1. [Contact Governor Pritzker](#) and ask him not extend Executive Order 2020-41.
2. Contact your [State Representative](#) and [Senator](#) and ask them to OPPOSE making remote registration for sports betting permanent.
3. Share this Alert with your faith community.
4. Forward to 10 others.

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