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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Alert - June 2, 2021



Senate did not vote on gambling bill SB 521

According to Capitol Fax, **the Senate did not take up SB 521 before it adjourned, and word is it won't ever do so**, because sponsor Rep. Rita did not coordinate with the Senate's gaming point person, Sen. President pro Tempore Bill Cunningham, on drafting the bill.

The House and Senate both recessed at "the call of the chair", which means **Legislators could come back in session in June to pass more bills!**

Senate Gambling bill (SB 2342) extended until June 15

This bill was heard in committee and amended Sunday afternoon, but not called for a vote. On the last day of session, the deadline for SB 2342 was extended until June 15th. **SB 2342 would allow the Lottery to sell ALL Instant tickets (scratch-offs) on the Internet.** The private company that operates the Illinois Lottery has made Internet Instants a top priority.

Talking Points for SB 2342 to use when contacting your Legislators

- **Instant tickets account for 2/3 of Lottery sales in Illinois.** Sales for Instant Tickets is almost 20% higher than last year according the Illinois Lottery.
- **Instant tickets online is similar to playing a game on your phone.** After you scratch off one ticket, a "Play Again" button will pop up. People could lose a great deal of money by "scratching" instant tickets online for hours on end.
- **During the pandemic, the Illinois Lottery simplified registration for online Lottery,** added Apple Pay, Google Pay, and uses web-push notifications and nudges on smart phones to lure residents to gamble more! The Lottery added 142,000 new online Lottery players through week 29 of 2021, with over 70,000 new players in January, 2021.
- **Anyone 18 and older can gamble on the Lottery.** The Illinois Lottery

conducted a study and found that 63.4% of 18–24-year-olds polled had a low level of gambling literacy. [Read](#)

· **Having a gambling app in your pocket is a constant temptation to gamble.** Making Instant tickets accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on cell phones, computers, and tablets will increase problem and pathological gambling.

Illinois planning to offer a lottery for vaccinated residents

Gov. Pritzker announced that Illinois will soon join a coalition of states operating lotteries for residents who have received COVID-19 vaccine shots. The news comes amid concerns about decreasing vaccination rates.

More information about the special lottery will be released soon on the lottery, he added. [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Contact your **State Representative** and **Senator** in their district office and ask them to oppose and vote NO on SB 2342 to sell Instant Lottery tickets online.
2. Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to PRAY and CALL.
3. Forward to 10 others.

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