



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Alert - May 31, 2021



With hours to go in the session, House Sponsor wants to amend Gambling bill on the floor and pass SB 521 in the House and Senate TODAY!

Although there were many opportunities to hold hearings on gambling issues during the past several months, on the final day of the spring legislative session another complicated, gambling expansion bill passed out of the House Executive Committee.

SB 521 addresses many areas, including:

- A new racetrack in Cook County that gives the Illinois Racing Board 21 days to examine an application. The IRB may reject or advise the applicant of deficiencies and require the submission of an amended application. If found compliant, the Board SHALL issue a license. The Governor had to step in and stop the sale of the proposed site for a racetrack in Tinley Park after the IRB rushed the process of approval for a new racetrack, after legislation was passed in 2019. The Legislature should not dictate such short timeframes.
- Licensing of video gambling sales agents and brokers? Problems in the past, how will the IGB handle this along with all of their other duties? How will this be enforced?

· **Legalizes video gambling for qualified fraternal and veterans' organizations that derive their charter from a national organization in municipalities and counties that prohibit video gambling, except for Chicago and Cook County.**

· These same veterans and fraternal organizations do not have to have a liquor license to operate video gambling. This would allow video gambling to operate in "dry" communities that prohibit the sale of alcohol.

· This is another carve out for the City of Chicago and Cook County, while all other counties would have an expansion of video gambling, even if they passed an ordinance to ban video gambling and alcohol.

· SB 521 would allow sports betting on Illinois college teams for 2 years. Bets would have to be placed in person, but you can place bets in advance of the games. Once the door is open to allowing bets on Illinois college teams, legislators will come back to expand to real time in play bets, mobile betting, and more. This is just a ploy to legalize bets on Illinois college teams, which was prohibited in the original 2019 sports betting bill.

· SB 521 expands betting in the smaller Chicago arena where Chicago Sky, the Women's Basketball Association plays.

[Read more](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Contact your [State Representative](#) and [Senator](#) (217-782-2000) and ask them to Vote NO on SB 521.
2. Forward to 10 others.

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