



# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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## Gambling Alert - March 18, 2021



### **Gambling addiction soars in Illinois**

"We have the most video gaming terminals than any other state. Most of them are in our rural communities," Garate said. "It's just like any other substance use disorder. People can gamble and go to the casinos, but addiction is a disease of the brain, and both gambling and other substances trigger the brain reward system."

Garate said placing bets has become too convenient, especially during the pandemic. "

[Read more](#)

### **Addiction researchers to access services for Illinois gamblers**

Illinois Department of Human Services is conducting an online survey, seeking input from "frequent" gamblers'. [Take the survey](#)

### **Bright Lights: what one woman's 25-year gambling addiction really cost**

[Watch video](#)

### **Impact of 2020 Suspensions Of Video Gaming**

Eric Noggle, a senior revenue analyst with the State's Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, said video gambling revenue has steadily gone up year by year, until the governor restricted video gaming due to the pandemic.

"He [Pritzker] suspended operations between March 16th and June 30th of 2020.

During that time, things abruptly changed, where we weren't getting revenues in at all."

**When pandemic restrictions were eased, Noggle said there was an immediate resurgence in gambling. [Read more](#)**

### **Accel Entertainment--Largest video gambling operator**

By February 5, all regions returned to normal hours of gaming operations with limited indoor dining. As reported in the IGB data, **Accel generated more**

**than \$48 million of gaming revenue in February, the best month in our history despite extreme temperatures, multiple snowstorms and only being 28 days long. Revenue** at locations opened in both February 2020 and February 2021 **was up almost 20%**, mostly driven by the higher bet limit software and the additional 6 video gambling machines.

On December 30, 2020, Accel acquired American Video Gaming, a Northern Illinois operator for **\$30 million**. [Read more](#)

## **Rivers Casino expansion**

## **FanDuel Opens Second Illinois Retail Sportsbook At Fairmount Park**

### **For Immediate Action**

1. Contact your **State Representative** and **Senator** and ask them to OPPOSE the legalization of Internet Gambling (**HB 3142** and **SB 2064**). Making slots, table games, and poker available 24/7 on mobile devices and computers will increase gambling, addiction, and underage gambling.
2. Share this Alert with your faith community.
3. Forward to 10 others.

[Click here to donate to Illinois Churches in Action \(tax deductible\)](#)

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