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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Alert - Date, 2021



House Executive Committee hearing on gambling proposals

Rep. Rita had 11 panels of gambling interests who presented their “want list” of expansion proposals that included, betting on Illinois college sports ([HB 849](#)), sports betting on Chicago Sky--women’s basketball team, Internet gambling and nationwide poker tournaments ([HB 3142](#)), permanent online registration for sports gambling, tax breaks for casinos ([HB 2358](#)) eliminate ability of home rule communities to enact ordinances for push tax or higher fees for video gambling, selling scratch-off Lottery tickets online ([HB 1951](#)), Lottery sports gambling ([SB 2276](#)) and ban sweepstakes machines.

Rep. Zalewski introduced the CEOs of two companies that want to set up sports betting exchanges to sell betting tickets or trade bets, similar to day trading or futures exchanges!

Democratic Rep. Bob Rita told Politico Illinois Playbook after Wednesday’s House Executive Committee, “I’d like to see us get in a different mindset,” Instead of thinking that a gaming bill won’t get passed again for 20 years — so you pile in what you can — **Rita wants lawmakers and companies to look at gaming as an issue that can be revisited in each legislative session.** Rep. Rita and Sen. Bill Cunningham will narrow legislation to something that can pass without having to make too many concessions, Playbook reported.

Legislators want bets on in-state college sports, other changes

State lawmakers are considering a number of changes to Illinois gambling laws, including a measure that would lift the prohibition on gambling on in-state colleges and universities. Whitman said it was a “major concern” that U of I athletes may be in direct contact with someone who is betting on them.

“They’re living amongst the people who are betting on them, which is strange to know that somebody who lives in the dorm room right next door might be betting on them, somebody who was involved with one of our teams as a manager, video person, might be betting on them,” he said. He also said college athletes often “live on their phone” and receive social media hate commentary that “in some cases directly references gambling

losses.”

. . . While advocates said Internet-gaming entices a different market than those that would go to casinos to gamble, operators of video gambling terminals opposed the measure.

Read

Vote in the poll – Should Illinoisans be allowed to place in-state bets on in-state college and university sports?

Child left alone in Hotel while mother gambled at casino, Metropolis

Metropolis officers were called to Harrah’s Hotel and Casino. They were informed that housekeeping kept hearing a child crying on the fifth floor of the hotel and the child seemed to be getting “hoarse” from all the crying. Housekeeping located the **18-month-old child alone in a room**. Video surveillance located the mother gambling. **Read**

DaVinci’s Gaming Bar linked to two federal criminal cases **Read**

J & J Ventures Gaming acquires Illinois Gaming Systems

J&J Ventures Gaming LLC, based in Effingham, announced its acquisition of Illinois Gaming Systems LLC, located in Naperville, Illinois. With this purchase, J&J now **serves nearly 3,300 locations** in gaming and amusements. **Read**

For Immediate Action

1. Contact your **State Representative** and **Senator** ask them to oppose online gambling, expansion of sports gambling, selling scratch-off tickets online, and other gambling expansion proposals.
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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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems

1132 West Jefferson,
Springfield, IL 62702
217-546-6871

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