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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Action Alert - DECEMBER 20, 2021



December 20, 2021

Gambling Alert

Pritzker signs law allowing bets on IL College sports

It had been staunchly opposed by University of Illinois athletic director Josh Whitman, who argued athletes could face undue pressure and even physical threats from bettors — some of whom might even live in the same dorm.

The law Pritzker signed also allows for a sportsbook at Wintrust Arena; lets new sports bettors sign up for accounts online **instead of in person** starting March 5; and prohibits towns from imposing additional **per-push taxes** on video slot machines, among other tweaks to state gambling law. [Read](#)

Homewood-East Hazel Crest Casino operator hopes to break ground in spring

Wind Creek is projecting gross gaming revenues approaching \$160 million a year by 2025. . . .The two host communities would keep 2% of monthly adjusted gross receipts, while another 3% would be shared among 41 other south suburbs. [Read](#)

Developers make pitches for a Chicago casino

The casino race comes down to three main bidders vying to land the casino that is expected to eventually rake in around \$1 billion per year. Billionaire Neil Bluhm and his Rush Street Gaming company are behind two proposals, against two other bids from Rhode Island-based

Bally's Corporation and one more from Hard Rock. [Read](#)

Related: The mayor wants Chicago to choose a casino by April. The state gambling committee will then address the issue. [Read](#)

If A Chicago Casino Opens Near Chinatown, Community Members Say Problem Gamblers Need Support

Four of the five sites proposed for a Chicago casino are on the Near South Side. Chinatown leaders worry the proximity could exacerbate problems with gambling disorder in the neighborhood.

... "If you were to ask anyone off the street, most likely nine out of 10 will tell you they know someone who struggles with" problem gambling, said Eunice Liao, who leads the Problem Gambling Program at the Pui Tak Center. [Read](#)

Racing Board rejects Betting Parlors for Churchill Downs

Officials at Hawthorne Racecourse in west suburban Stickney proposed that they could take over the betting sites, though that could require closing some of its current sites, or a change in state law to raise the maximum number of sites it is allowed. [Read](#)

Robberies at Rivers Casino

On Aug. 18, one victim had just cashed out winnings totaling \$14,000. He headed to the casino's parking lot. Lyke allegedly grabbed the money from the man's pocket. Then, Lyke fled in a car, police said.

On Oct. 13, a 67-year-old man had parked his car at Rivers Casino. He was walking in the direction of the gaming venue when Lyke walked up to him and grabbed his wallet from a pocket, police said.

The [Rivers Casino](#) experienced another robbery in November that did not involve Lyke, authorities believe. A victim had \$40,000 cash with him when he was attacked by two assailants. At least one of them was holding a firearm. [Read](#)

Walter Payton's daughter signs deal with Rush Street Interactive

Payton will be representing RSI in a variety of ways, including the creation of sports betting content and a multitude of sports and culture content for RSI. As an Ambassador, Payton will be appearing in BetRivers TV and radio commercials, podcasts, and social media interviews. "Her enthusiasm for sports and pop culture, combined with her extensive experience working as a television personality will be a tremendous asset to our sports betting community." [Read](#)

New Media sports gambling push with old ESPN stars

For the past several years, sports-betting companies have been gobbling up commercial time during the breaks in all manner of sports

programming. Now the sportsbooks are trying a new tactic — taking over the programming too. As a result, a growing wave of veteran sports media personalities are leaving behind traditional outlets and creating video segments, streaming shows, radio programs and podcast direction behalf of sports-betting companies. [Read](#)

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and New Year!

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