Gambling Alert - Feb. 26, 2021

Arlington Park race track is for sale

Carstanjen said Churchill Downs is "very committed to pursuing the relocation of Arlington's racing
license to another community" in Illinois, though that's not how the process works in the state.
    Tracks apply for specific racing dates with the Illinois Racing Board, not a moveable license. Members
of that governor-appointed state board have slammed the company's past threats to move. Read

Churchill Downs planned to apply for a sports betting license for the racetrack, but a state requirement that Arlington would have to pay additional taxes on gaming revenues to fund horse racing purses made a casino there "financially untenable," a company official has said. Read
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University of Illinois athletics Opposed to betting on IL College Sports

    Rep. Zalewski hasn't lined up perhaps the most influential stakeholder in the debate: Athletic Director Whitman.
"We are still opposed to the bill that would allow betting on Illinois collegiate sport teams, primarily because this allows even more, and unwanted, pressure on college-age student-athletes," UI athletics spokesman Kent Brown said.
    Additionally, **"on a college campus of more than 50,000 students, the ability to place wagers on events involving a roommate, classmate, friend of a friend, etc., puts a premium on what could be 'inside information' regarding injuries or availability of players,"** Brown said.
    [HB 849 sponsor Rep.] Zalewski said he had "a very open and honest dialogue" with Whitman earlier this year, but didn't change his mind, adding: "He raised very

good, substantive points about it." **Zalewski said the most compelling argument against betting on in-state schools is "that the student-athletes will be subject to online harassment**." Read

House Bill 2 would legalize a race track casino in Will County

The massive gambling expansion bill of 2019 authorized a new race track casino in Cook County. HB 2 would add Will County to the mix so that Crete, IL, home of the former Balmoral track would be eligible for a license. The track was sold several years ago and became an equestrian center. Read the bill

Mayor breaks tie vote as video gaming passes first hurdle in Geneseo

The committee of the whole narrowly approved recommending ordinances for video gaming be forwarded to the March 9 council meeting. Eight people, including former alderman Jason Robinson, spoke against video gaming during public comments. Read

Man gets 9 years in prison for robbing Champaign gambling parlor

Burries-Brumfield, 22, pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery for putting an object to the head of a woman working at Lacy's Place, 1710 W. Bradley Ave., C, on March 6, 2020, then stealing cash from the register. Read

Schaumburg approves 5 gambling cafes, sticks to that limit

Schaumburg trustees on Tuesday approved plans for the maximum five gambling cafes they agreed to allow when they decided two years ago that residents could open such businesses in town. Trustee Frank Kozak also supported a proposal for a sixth cafe, but no other trustees joined him. Read

Video Gambling In Elmhurst?

City's mayoral candidates indicate some willingness to revisit the issues. Read

For Immediate Action

1. Attend Candidate Forums in your community and ask candidates their positions on video gambling and parlors/cafes.
2. The House and Senate will hold remote video committee hearings next week. HB 2 will be heard in the House Executive Committee on March 3 at 10:00. View the hearing
3. Share this Alert with your faith community.
4. Forward to 10 others.

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