



Gambling Alert - Feb. 3, 2021



[Senate cancels February in-person session](#) - all upcoming committee meetings and hearings to be held online.

[Gaming Board meeting Feb. 4 on suitability of Rockford Casino](#)
The February 4th open session **begins at 3:00 p.m.** and [can be viewed on livestream](#).

Gaming Board Investigates Key Figure In Rockford Casino Plan

The investors in the Rockford gambling venture presented their plans to the Illinois Gaming Board last week, with businessman Dan Fischer of Naperville acting as the point person for the group's pitch.

But left unsaid was that the gaming board also is conducting a separate, disciplinary investigation into a deal involving another company owned by Fischer, Illinois Cafe & Service Co.

The company, based in Des Plaines, runs the Dotty's chain of video-gambling outlets in Illinois and has faced state scrutiny of its deal to buy another group of gambling parlors in 2018, according to the court records obtained by WBEZ. [Read more](#)

Gaming Board investigators probing two video gambling kings

On one side of the feud is **Rick Heidner, owner of Gold Rush Gaming**, which leases video poker machines to more than 500 locations around the state. Gambling regulators are seeking to revoke his license to supply the machines over allegations that he offered a \$5 million "illegal inducement" to his adversary in the lawsuit in an attempt to hold onto a significant chunk of his business.

On the other side of the battle is **Dan Fischer, a dominant player in Illinois video poker cafes and the developer of a proposed Hard Rock Casino in Rockford**, which is awaiting preliminary state approval Thursday. In late 2018, Fischer expanded his empire by acquiring the Stella's and Shelby's chain of 57 gambling cafes in a

complicated maneuver that included a plan to replace Heidner's machines at 44 of those locations with devices from a different supplier. [Read more](#)

Two weeks after Casey Urlacher pardon, co-defendant pleads guilty to running sports gambling ring

Vincent "Uncle Mick" DelGiudice, 55, of Orland Park, admitted he ran an illegal sports gambling ring based around Chicago that allegedly involved as many as 1,000 gamblers and netted DelGiudice \$8 million. He pleaded guilty to a gambling conspiracy and money laundering. [Read more](#)

Related: According to prosecutors, Del Giudice paid a Costa Rica-based sportsbook a service fee of \$10,000 a week to use its online platform and recruited gamblers to place wagers on his website. [Read more](#)

IL gamblers bet \$449.2Million on Sports in November

That resulted in nearly **\$6.2 million for the state's** tax coffers, and **Cook County received \$425,355 in tax revenue** on 2% of adjusted gross revenue for all wagers placed in the county.

Governor Pritzker issued Executive Order 2020-41 to "suspend the in-person registration provision required to gain access to mobile sports wagering". **The governor has continually renewed the executive order, as he is expected to do on Friday, ahead of the Super Bowl.** [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

1. [Contact your State Senator](#). With the cancellation of the February Legislative session, it is important to reach out to your Senator to let him/her know you oppose the expansion of gambling--Internet casinos, making permanent online registration for sports gambling, legalizing Keno online, Internet sales of Scratch Offs and All Lottery tickets for 18 and older.
2. [Contact Governor Pritzker](#) and to tell him your opposition to online registration for sports gambling and share this gambling study, which revealed [gambling begins at age 11](#).
3. **Share** this Alert with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
4. **Forward** to 10 others.

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www.ilcaaap.org
1132 W Jefferson
Springfield, IL 60702

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