



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Alert - July 8, 2021



Report to the General Assembly on Internet gambling

Earlier this year, Rep. Robert Rita (D-Blue Island) introduced a bill (**HB 3142**) that would have let casinos and racetracks in Illinois offer internet gaming. Rita's bill ultimately failed, and the Senate instead asked a commission to study the issue (**SR 303**), [Joel Ebert reported](#).

[Read the report](#)

IL sports betting declines for second month, remains #2 in nation

Sports betting was approved before the COVID-19 pandemic with a slated start in late 2020. Gov. J.B. Pritzker issued dozens of executive orders during the pandemic, including allowing remote registration for sports bets. He **rescinded** that order in April.

Some groups, like Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems, oppose expanding gambling online. The group says it could harm younger people. [Read](#)

Pritzker: State funding for Bears stadium at Arlington Park 'not something we're looking at'

Pritzker didn't address former Gov. Jim Edgar's insistence that state leaders can exert pressure on the Louisville, Kentucky-based racetrack owner in an eleventh-hour attempt to save the historic racing venue and the struggling Illinois horse racing industry. In an interview with the Daily Herald last month, **Edgar questioned whether the horse racing and gambling corporation deserved additional state licenses -- namely, the pending one for a new Waukegan casino**

-- if it was intent on shutting down Arlington Park.

Company officials have said they want to move the Arlington racing license elsewhere in Illinois, despite legal questions over the process to do so. [Read](#)

Another twist: New Arlington bidder has history with Churchill partner Neil Bluhm

There are now four confirmed bidders for the Arlington property: the Bears, Glenstar, UrbanStreet and Endeavor Properties, a group headed by former AP president Roy Arnold. Arnold's association is the only one of the four that has confirmed that it wants to continue horse racing at the legacied 94-year-old racetrack.

And if the shrewd Neil Bluhm has an ax to grind with the McCaskey family, he quite possibly could suddenly have a very live horse in "The Bye-Buy Arlington Derby." [Read](#)

Pritzker Signs Law Allowing College Athletes to Be Paid

The law will apply to both public and private colleges and universities, enabling any student-athletes in the state to sign deals for things like modeling or promoting brand-name sportswear or other products.

But the law does not allow athletes to endorse or promote things like gambling or sports betting, controlled substances, cannabis, tobacco, alcohol, nicotine, performance-enhancing supplements, adult entertainment or any products or services that are "reasonably considered to be inconsistent with the values or mission of a postsecondary educational institution," the legislation reads. [Read](#)

Video gambling establishments caught selling alcohol to minors

The Illinois State Police conducted surveillance at various establishments in Clinton, Effingham, Fayette, Gallatin, Marion, Saline, and White County during June. 22 businesses were caught selling alcohol to minors--**13 of these have video gambling licenses, and 1 video gambling license is pending.** [Read more](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Contact your [State Representative](#) and [Senator](#) in their District offices or talk with them at events this summer. Ask them to oppose Internet casino gambling, Internet Keno and Instant Lottery tickets sold online.
2. Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to PRAY and CALL.
3. Forward to 10 others.

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