



# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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## Gambling Alert - June 1, 2021



The House passed a gambling bill, SB 521 early this morning. Rep. Rita amended the bill in the House Executive Committee Memorial Day afternoon, then filed 3 additional amendments, the last one at 12:45 a.m.

So many Republicans spoke out in favor of the bill and thanked Rita for all his hard work. They only allowed one person to speak before the budget bill passed, but they allowed 9 people to speak on the gambling bill beginning at 12:53 a.m. and completing the vote at 1:19 a.m. on June 1 with 96 Y, 11NO, and 1 Present. [Read more](#)

**The Senate comes in at 11:00 today and could vote on this gambling bill (SB 521).**

### **SB 521 allows:**

- Betting on ALL IL college teams--community colleges, smaller division schools, Big Ten schools, etc.
- Must bet in person on IL college teams, not on the Internet or cell phone. Can only bet on team, not individual players, for 2 years, which will be expanded. Rep. Zalewski called it "a fair compromise to improve the sports betting market"!
- Sports betting licenses for smaller venues to accommodate Chicago Sky (Women's Basketball Association) so they can accept sports bet during games.
- Requires the IL Racing Board to make a decision about an applicant for a new Cook County racetrack 21 days after receiving an application, and allow an applicant to make changes to the application if the application is deficient.
- **Allows all national certified fraternal and veteran organizations to have video gambling, WITHOUT A LIQUOR LICENSE, even if the**

**county or municipality BANS Video Gambling.**

- **Carve out for Chicago and Cook County--they don't have to allow video gambling at veteran and fraternal groups.**
- Increased video gambling fees local municipalities could charge from \$25 to \$250 per machine.
- Allowed Oak Park and Waukegan to keep Push Tax of Penny a bet, they cannot increase the tax.
- Pre-empted other home rule communities from charging extra taxes. Removed the cap on the amount a home-rule community could charge for video gambling (some charge \$1,000 - \$1,500 per machine).
- Video gambling sales agents/brokers will be licensed by the IGB and charged a fee of \$100.
- Raffles allowed for fire protective districts.

Sen. Kimberly Lightford has another bill (SB 2342), which could also be called for a vote. The time to pass this bill has been extended until June 15<sup>th</sup>! SB 2342 would put all Instant Lottery tickets (Scratch-offs) on the Internet and is a massive expansion of gambling.

- **Two-thirds of IL Lottery sales are from Instant Tickets.** Instant ticket sales increased almost 20% last year during the pandemic.
- **Anyone 18 and older can gamble on the Lottery.** The Illinois Lottery conducted a study and found that 63.4% of 18-24 year old's polled had a low level of gambling literacy. These young people didn't understand that gambling is not a good way to make money and that the chances of winning don't get better after you've lost. **Read**
- Scratching off Instant tickets online is similar to playing a game on your phone. After you scratch off one ticket, a "Play Again" button will pop up. Illinois residents with a "low level of gambling literacy" and the addicted could lose so much money by "scratching" these online tickets for hours on end.
- The Illinois Lottery simplified registration for online Lottery, added Apple Pay, Google Pay, and uses web-push notifications and nudges on smart phones to lure residents to gamble more! **Having a gambling app in your pocket is a constant temptation to gamble.**

**For Immediate Action**

1. Contact your State Senator TODAY and ask him/her to Vote NO on SB 521 and SB 2342. (Switchboard: 217-782-2000)
2. Share Alert with your faith community and ask them to call and PRAY.
3. Forward to 10 others.

Click here to donate to Illinois Churches in Action (tax deductible)

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