



# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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## Gambling Alert - May 14, 2021



A backroom gambling deal is being worked on as the General Assembly nears the May 31 deadline. Three gambling issues under consideration:

**Internet Scratch-Off Lottery tickets.** Scratch-off tickets account for two-thirds of Lottery sales. Instant scratch-offs are like playing games on phones, with a “Play Again” button that pops up after purchase. Anyone 18 and older could “scratch” tickets for hours on end and lose a great deal of money.

The Lottery simplified online registration during the pandemic, added Apple and Google Pay and used web-push notifications/nudges on phones to lure gamblers. Having a gambling app in your pocket is a constant temptation to gamble.

**Betting on Illinois college sports.** Threats against student athletes are real, especially when people are gambling on college teams. The 2019 gambling bill banned bets on Illinois college sports to protect players, many of whom are under the age of 21.

Relentless sports betting commercials, gambling apps, pop ads on computers, and cell phone nudges entice people to place bets 24/7. Expanding sports bets on college colleges will increase gambling and addiction.

**Tax breaks for gambling companies.** Sports gambling companies want tax breaks on 20 percent of “comps”, coupons, promotions, and vouchers that entice people to gamble more. In 2020, DraftKings’ revenue doubled from the year before. Companies that prey on the addicted should not be given tax breaks.

Internet casino and online poker are also being considered. Making gambling more accessible in homes will increase gambling addiction and harm families. Call your Legislators!

**Giovanni’s denied license for temporary Rockford casino, attorney**

## **demands hearing**

In April, the Illinois Gaming Board **denied a temporary casino license** to Giovanni's Restaurant and Convention Center after owner Joseph Castrogiovanni failed to report he had been arrested for shooting at an occupied car in his driveway, new records show.

815 Entertainment, the investment group trying to bring a casino to Rockford, is pursuing ownership of Giovanni's. **Read**

## **Sports betting hits record in final month of remote registration**

Penn National launched Barstool Sportsbook on March 11. Once the brand knew remote registration was coming to an end, it started a **“last chance” marketing push for online registrations** with **36 hours** left.

That push led to more than **20,000** registrations and **13,000** first-time depositors in that 36-hour period, according to Penn's **most recent earnings presentation**. More than **10,000** users opted into a promotion for **four free \$100 bets**. **Read**

## **Break ins at video gambling establishments**

On April 27th, a group broke into garage 2 tavern in Edinburgh. They raided the bar, stealing money from the video gambling machines, safes, and cash register. “All the poker machines were completely demolished. They'd broken into the machine that dispenses the money,” Van Dorn said.

The garage tavern joined a list of bars across Christian and Sangamon county that were broken into recently. Christian county sheriff Bruce Kettelkamp has reason to believe they are all connected. **Read**

## **Local Video Gambling Slump Affecting Municipal Funds**

NOTE: Gamblers **LOST** \$240,673,887.59 in 39,245 video gambling machines located in 7,503 Illinois establishments in April. **See how much was lost** in your community.

### **For Immediate Action**

1. With 18 days left in the session, a language for a gambling bill could be put together very quickly. Ask your **State Representative** and **Senator** to **OPPOSE** Instant Scratch Off Lottery tickets, betting on IL college sports, tax breaks for gambling companies, and Internet casino and poker gambling.
2. Share this Alert with your faith community
3. Forward to 10 others.

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