



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Alert - May 20, 2021



Today, with only 11 days left of the spring Legislative session, a massive gambling expansion bill was introduced. HB 4087 is a massive expansion of sports gambling and the Lottery in every community statewide.

HB 4087 allows Sports Lottery terminals at Lottery retail outlets and in **bars and restaurants where alcohol is poured and consumed, at video gambling establishments, and any retail food establishment.**

While the 2019 legislation put a cap on 2,500 locations and limited the types of sports bets, HB 4087 eliminates these provisions, lowers taxes and fees, and is a losing proposition for the State.

Sports Lottery terminals would accept an electric card to place bets on a sporting event or buy Lottery tickets and accept bets conducted over the Internet or through mobile applications or other digital platforms.

People could purchase any type of Lottery ticket, including Scratch-Offs, as well as place bets on sports through the Sports Lottery terminal. Scratch-offs account for two-thirds of Lottery sales and generate the most revenue. The poor and/or addicted could lose all of their money in these machines conveniently located in gas stations, grocery stores, bars, and video gambling establishments.

HB 4087 allows any video gambling terminal operator and retail location to purchase or lease the Sports Lottery terminals. If the bill is passed, the Lottery sports wagering would be implemented on June 30, 2021, with betting terminals available within 90 days after becoming law. **[Read the bill](#)**

3-year evolution of American sports betting: From taboo to revenue

Now, three years after the game-changing Supreme Court ruling, all the major professional leagues have official betting partners and sports betting is in your face more than ever. It's inescapable.

Signage for sportsbooks can be seen on the floors at NBA arenas and in the outfields at Major League Baseball stadiums. Billboards for bookmakers line highways in many of the 21 states that have launched betting markets, and TV ads for sportsbooks are airing as frequently as commercials for soup, which is legal in all states.

... **In the first quarter of 2021, [Nielsen reported](#) that the online gambling industry, primarily sports betting, spent \$154 million on local TV advertisements.** With the jarring increase in advertising -- from none to a ton -- there's fear that backlash from regulators and lawmakers is coming, including at the NFL, which after naming Caesars Entertainment, DraftKings and FanDuel as the league's first official betting partners in the U.S., is prepping to allow ads for sportsbooks this season. [Read](#)

Arlington Park's survival possible?

Despite declarations by CEO Bill Carstanjen that the prime 326 acres of real estate would be sold for "other non-horse racing mixed-use options," Henry on Tuesday noted prospective buyers are now angling to bid on the property and keep a portion of it operating as a thoroughbred racetrack.

Churchill Downs has set a June 15 deadline for developers to submit proposals. [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Contact your **[State Representative](#)** and **[Senator](#)** and ask them to OPPOSE HB 4087 and all bills to expand gambling. Ask them to focus on balancing a budget rather than ramming gambling expansion through in the final days of session.
2. Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
3. Forward to 10 others.

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