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## Gambling Alert - May 5, 2021



Capitol Fax reported today that "the legislative will appears to exist to pass a scaled-back, limited bill on gambling in both chambers".

Three of the proposed gambling bills that could be included in a scaled-back bill are **Betting on IL College Sports** (HB 849), **Internet sale of Lottery Scratch-Offs** (HB 1951), **Tax breaks for casinos** for construction and "comps" (HB 2360) **and Sports Gambling tax breaks** - no tax on 20% of comps [promotional, free bets, vouchers, etc.)

### 15 state legislators weigh in on allowing bets on IL College Sports

Please read and note that several of the Legislators have casinos or will have new casinos in their district. All casinos have Sports Gambling! **Read** 

## Remote Registration, College Betting Key Illinois Sports Betting Topics <u>Read</u>

## Village lays groundwork for Future Uses at Arlington Park

The village board Monday night unanimously approved an ordinance banning owner Churchill Downs Inc. from placing a restrictive covenant tied to horse racing and gambling on the land -- as part of the municipality's effort to preserve the option of those things under new property ownership.

The restrictive covenant ban will prevent Churchill from seeking language in any potential land deal that bars the continued operation of horse racing at the track, or addition of other forms of gambling. Churchill might have been inclined to ink such a deal, in an effort to thwart any competition with its other property, Rivers Casino in Des Plaines. **Read** 

#### **Proposed Buyer for Arlington Park Race Track**

Roy Arnold, who served as president and CEO of Arlington Park from 2006-10, announced his intention on behalf of a group of investors to purchase the Arlington Heights, Ill., racetrack. Arnold, who currently heads the Endeavor Hotel Group, is

aligned with Mike Campbell, president of the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association in an effort to continue live racing at the suburban Chicago racetrack after owner Churchill Downs Inc. said in 2019 it would not seek a casino license and now has the property listed for sale. **Read** 

#### **Video Gambling interests oppose Internet Gambling**

Only 6 states have legalized online gambling. Jeff Kaplan is vice president of Strategic Financial Planning for Penn National Gaming, which operates 3 of the 10 casinos in Illinois. He said online gambling attracts a different type of customer, as their online database averages 10 years younger than brick-and-mortar players. He said players are getting "fed back to the casino" because the players are in their database and earning rewards points for their play that can be redeemed for food or other services at the casinos.

The Illinois Licensed Beverage Association cited "'FOGO', the fear of going out", and suggested that internet gambling would be a deterrent to helping those businesses get back to full strength. Read

# Illinois online sports betting remote sign-up push earns frosty reception

It seems increasingly likely Illinois sports bettors will have to register for sportsbooks in-person throughout the rest of the year after lawmakers responded coldly to remote sign-up pitches during a legislative hearing Wednesday.

Bolstered by remote sign-up, six online sportsbooks have launched since May 2020; BetRivers, DraftKings, FanDuel, William Hill, PointsBet and Barstool Sportsbook. Pritzker renewed the order for several additional months, spurring hopes remote registration would, in effect, remain permanent until the original physical sign-up period sunset in 2022. Read

#### For Immediate Action

- 1. Contact your <u>State Representative</u> and <u>Senator</u> and ask them to OPPOSE betting on Illinois College Sports, selling scratch-off tickets on the Internet, giving tax breaks to sports gambling and casino companies. (Call: 217-782-2000)
- 2. Share this Alert with your faith community.
- 3. Forward to 10 others.

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

## Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems

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