



# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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## Gambling Action Alert - November 3, 2021



### **Chicago Receives Five Bids For Downtown Casino License**

The city identified the contenders as Rhode Island-based gambling company Bally's Corporation, Florida-based gaming giant Hard Rock International, and two separate groups with proposals spearheaded by Chicago casino magnate Neil Bluhm's Rush Street Gaming.

Bluhm's Rush Street Gaming is behind two development groups with names that tip their hand on where they'd like to break ground: Rivers Chicago at McCormick LLC, and Rivers 78 Gaming LLC.

Hard Rock's bid as HR Chicago LLC comes about nine months after the corporation received the **Illinois Gaming Board's OK to break ground on another casino in Rockford** – and about five months after it opened a casino in Gary, Indiana, not even an hour's drive from Lightfoot's City Hall office.

Bally's, which last month took control of the former Jumer's Casino in Rock Island, submitted two proposals for two different potential sites: one at the Near North site of the Chicago Tribune publishing center near Chicago Avenue and Halsted; and another at the McCormick Place truck marshaling yard south of the sprawling convention center. [Read](#)

### **[Watch video](#) of proposed downtown casino sites**

**University of IL Law Review** has 9 articles on sports gambling, casinos, problem gambling and crime, harm to college athletes, ethics of gambling laws. [Click on each title to read.](#)

## **Former Rep. Luis Arroyo pleads guilty - bribery tied to sweepstakes machines**

The maximum penalty could be 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and three years of supervised release after prison, but his lawyers and prosecutors can make their own recommendations for the judge to consider upon sentencing. The government is also seeking forfeiture from Arroyo of up to \$32,500--an amount contested by the defendant.

[Read](#)

## **Betting on IL college sports teams passes over objections from school athletic directors**

Under a measure state lawmakers approved in the closing hours of their fall session, bettors would be allowed to place wagers in person at state-licensed sportsbooks on the outcome of games played by in-state college teams — but not on individual athlete performance or in-game action.

. . .It also would allow video gambling at veterans and fraternal organizations in towns outside of Cook County that have banned the machines. [Read](#)

## **HB 3136 Allows Online Sports Gambling Registration**

“Right now there are only six sportsbooks,” said Joe Boozell, lead analyst with PlayIllinois.com. *“I expect that number to double by the end of 2022 because no sportsbook really wants to launch if there is not an online registration.”* [Read](#)

## **Oak Lawn's 'Push-Tax' Approved by IL Legislature**

"We consulted with many Oak Lawn bettors and our research showed that they **averaged between 100 and 200 bets each time they played**, so we didn't feel a \$1 or \$2 tax was unfair, and neither did they," Mallo said. [Read](#)

**NOTE: This is a tax on addicted gamblers!**

## **Pekin leaders adopt 1 cent push tax for video gaming**

Currently, Pekin receives 5% of the revenue generated by video gambling, the state collects 28%, the gaming communication system 1%, and the remaining 66% is split evenly between the machine operator and the establishment hosting the machine.

With the push tax in play, **the city expects to make an additional \$32,250-\$64,500** to use towards infrastructure developments. [Read](#)

## **5 Southland towns OK video gambling tax in special Sunday meetings**

Village boards and city councils across the Southland held special meetings over the weekend to enact penny-per-play taxes on video gambling machines in advance of a Monday deadline set by the Illinois General Assembly.

Calumet City, Dolton, Markham, South Chicago Heights and University Park village boards and city councils approved a push tax Sunday; Homer Glen trustees soundly rejected similar action. [Read](#)

### ***For Immediate Action***

- Send your [State Senator](#) and [Representative](#) the [University of Illinois Law Review](#) on gambling and ask them to OPPOSE online gambling and all expansion.
- Share this Alert with your faith community and PRAY.
- Forward to 10 others.

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