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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Action Alert - September 22, 2021



Chicago Bears' Rift With The Park District Widens Over Stalled Sports Betting Lounge At Soldier Field

While the Bears have a lease to play at Soldier Field until 2033,[the Chicago Tribune reported](#) the cost to the team's bottom line to break that lease would amount to peanuts.

. . . Churchill Downs also has a majority share of Rivers Casino in Des Plaines, Ill. — about 15 miles away from the track. **In June**, the Bears announced it had made a deal with Rivers Casino to make it the team's official casino sponsor. And, the casino's online gambling enterprise — BetRivers.com — would be the Bears' official sports betting partner.

[Read](#)

Mayor makes pitch to keep the Bears in Chicago

During a Zoom meeting with the Sun-Times editorial board that primarily focused on her 2022 budget, Lightfoot made it clear she is taking the Bears' threat to leave Chicago seriously.

A die-hard Bears' fan and season ticket holder, Lightfoot acknowledged the need to enhance the fan experience at Soldier Field and turn the stadium into a year-round revenue generator. [Read](#)

Pushback on Penny a Push VG Tax

Illinois lawmakers, wary of the development of a patchwork of local taxes and regulations, are poised to put a lid on the issue. Legislation that would make video gaming taxes an "exclusive" function of the state passed the House in June but stalled in the Senate ([SB 521](#))

. . . "What it ultimately could do is potentially affect the funding for

the infrastructure bill that was passed in 2019," [Rep. Bob} Rita said. "But also, it'd (create) a patchwork of different taxes that are put on by the municipalities versus having a state tax."

With legislative action possible during the fall veto session in October or sometime next year, the **Illinois Municipal League has encouraged local governments to consider the tax**, even as a pair of lawsuits brought by terminal operators work through the courts. [Read more Related](#)

Edwardsville bar owner wants video gambling [Read](#)

LSU partners with gambling company

LSU and Caesars Sportsbook announced Friday that they have entered into a multi-year sponsorship agreement, making Louisiana's flagship state university the first in the Southeastern Conference to enter a financial partnership with a gambling company.

. . . The deal also comes as national rules governing college sports have begin to allow college athletes to profit from their name, image and likeness (NIL) without jeopardizing their eligibility. It remains unclear whether players older than 21 will be able to participate in any of Caesar's advertising campaigns at LSU or around the state. [Read Related](#)

Sports betting transforming social lives in U. S.

For an afternoon, I was transported back to the social world I'd left behind in Australia, and one that's slowly but surely taking shape in America: a world in which sports betting is a permanent fixture of conversation, a slow-moving magmatic sludge that eventually takes over every space, every interaction, every friendship in which sport plays an important role. [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

- Contact your [State Senator](#) and ask him/her to Oppose SB 521.
- Share this Alert with your faith community and PRAY.
- Forward to 10 others.

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

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