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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Action Alert - Oct. 27, 2021



The Senate Executive Committee unanimously passed HB 3136 to expand sports gambling and video gambling. Senate sponsor Bill Cunningham said the bill might still have to be “tweaked” with floor amendments, like they did in the House on the final day of session in May.

Chicago Magazine article about sports gambling

At least four brand-name online sportsbooks – DraftKings, FanDuel, PointsBet, and BetRivers – have converged on the Chicago market. These high-tech bookies showcase odds for games, handle betting action, pay winners, and collect from losers – turning a steady profit margin of 4 to 6 percent. **Their take could be higher, but state law prohibits sportsbooks from laying odds on games involving Illinois college teams.**

To win over bettors, who gaming experts say are primarily tech-sharp young and middle-aged men with cash to burn, **sportsbooks are spending millions on advertising, phone apps, and gambling incentives, such as cash bonuses for new players.** [Read more](#)

For Immediate Action

- Call your [State Senator](#) and [Representative](#) and ask them to Vote NO on HB 3136. (see talking points below)
- Share this Alert with your faith community and PRAY.

- Forward to 10 others.

Talking Points to Oppose HB 3136:

- HB 3136 allows betting on all Illinois college teams—community colleges, private colleges, smaller division schools, Division I schools, etc. 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 college players, many of whom are under the age of 21.
- Many Illinois colleges now have Esports teams. These video game tournaments are considered a sport. If HB 3136 becomes law, gamblers could also place bets on college teams playing video games.
- HB 3136 allows people to register for a sports gambling account remotely on March 5, 2022, in time to bet on NCAA March Madness. There are no checks on IDs or safeguards to prevent underage youth from using a parent's credit card to set up an account and start up gambling. In the UK a 13-year-old took a picture of his Dad's company credit card and gambled over \$130,000 on his favorite sports teams.
- **HB 3136 legalizes video gambling for qualified fraternal and veterans' organizations that derive their charter from a national organization in municipalities and counties that BAN video gambling, except for Chicago and Cook County.** HB 3136 would take away local control and the wishes of voters.
- There are over 41,000 legal video gambling machines in Illinois—more than anywhere in the U. S. If a ban is overturned for veteran and fraternal organizations, bars and restaurants will want the same privilege, leading to another massive expansion of gambling.
- HB 3136 gives the Illinois Racing Board only 21 days to examine an application for a new racetrack in Cook County. **The IRB may reject or advise the applicant of deficiencies and require the submission of an amended application.** If found compliant, the Board SHALL issue a license. The Governor had to step in and stop the sale of the proposed site for a racetrack in Tinley Park after the IRB rushed the process of approval for a new racetrack in 2019. The Legislature should not dictate such short timeframes.

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