



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

Gambling Alert - January 15, 2021



No gambling bills were passed during the Lame Duck session, which ended on January 13. The House is scheduled to begin the [102nd General Assembly spring session](#) on **February 2**.

Sports Betting Bill Could Allow Wagers on State Collegiate Events

State Representative Mike Zalewski filed legislation on January 9 to authorize sports wagering on state collegiate events. If passed, HB 5876 would go into effect immediately.

Like Illinois, Washington DC, Rhode Island, New York, Delaware, and Oregon prevent bets to be placed on college and university sports events. [Read Related: IL Sports Gambling Expansion](#)

Chicago Billionaire Neil Bluhm wants to legalize online casinos in IL

"Very few states have allowed [online casinos] so far, but they need revenue now, so many states are considering it. They're all looking at it because they're desperate for revenue and jobs," said Bluhm. "Sports betting is getting all the attention, but we're projecting that online casinos will be more valuable."

He owns a 54% stake in Rush Street Interactive worth \$2.3 billion, part of his estimated \$6.3 billion net worth, which includes Rush Street Gaming as well as a real estate portfolio spanning from California to Chicago and small stakes in the Chicago Bulls and the Chicago White Sox. [Read more](#)

Online Gambling Upgraded

Developers have upgraded slot machines and **modified interaction with players to attract young people to gamble in online casinos.**

Online gaming has upgraded from having people use their cell-phones, tablets, or laptops to connect to online casinos and are now **using smartwatches to give a more accessible and convenient connection.**

Cryptocurrency is gradually dominating online gambling. "Gambling is a very sensitive game, a reason why **people prefer to be anonymous and untraceable.**

Research has proven that cryptocurrency is steadily making its way to becoming the most preferred choice of online gaming transaction in the forthcoming years." [Read](#)

[Watch](#): Terminal operators gear up to open video gambling in establishments

IL Liquor Commission overturns Joliet's ban on V G at gas stations

Mayor Bob O'Dekirk said the City Council's approval of the permits for Thorntons opened the door for the Illinois Liquor Commission's vote to overturn Joliet's decision to deny the Lambert request. [Read more](#)

Peoria City Council reduces video gaming, liquor license fees

During its first meeting of the year Tuesday night, the council unanimously voted to reduce liquor license and video gaming license fees by 50%. [Read more](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Contact your [State Representative](#) and [Senator](#) to ask them to OPPOSE HB 5876 to allow betting on college sports in Illinois. Ask them to also oppose online casino gambling and expansion of online Lottery gambling--Keno, and online sales of scratch-offs and ALL Lottery tickets.
2. Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
3. Forward to 10 others.

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