



NEWS

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Gambling legislation will lead to crime syndicate infiltration & political corruption

Chicago will soon become the Las Vegas of the Midwest

For Immediate Release

Chicago, IL –Tuesday, May 31, 2011 – The Chicago Crime Commission is warning that if the gambling legislation that passed in the Illinois House becomes law, crime syndicate infiltration and political corruption will follow. Additionally, while the bill is being presented as a panacea for the state’s financial woes, legislators have failed to calculate the social cost of making Chicago the Las Vegas of the Midwest.

“I would caution the Governor and members of the Illinois Senate to think long and hard before they support this legislation. “It is beyond my comprehension that the Illinois House has passed this bill. I would strongly encourage a sober review by the Illinois Senate and urge them to reject this dangerous legislation,” according to Arthur J. Bilek, Executive Vice President of the Chicago Crime Commission. “If passed, this legislation, more than any other in my memory, would change the complexion and perception of the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois...and not in a positive way,” he continued.

The Gaming Act bill provides for a massive expansion of gambling, including new casinos in Chicago and the suburbs as well as slot machines at the airports and racetracks. The Bill also provides for 4,000 new gambling positions in Chicago alone.

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“The almost unbelievable number of new gambling activities provided by the bill will enable the always ingenious Crime Syndicate to seek out myriad ways to enrich itself by getting into the legal gambling game,” Bilek added. “It is unclear what regulatory provisions will be put in place to oversee the overwhelming number of new gambling activities. To date, the Crime Syndicate has been kept out of legal gambling in Illinois through the unflinching efforts of the current Illinois Gaming Board,” he said.

“Pure and simple the bill is a set-up for disaster. If passed, law enforcement can expect the entrance of the Crime Syndicate into legalized gambling through a variety of ruses and deceptions,” Bilek warned. “Federal prosecutors should plan for a constant stream of federal corruption indictments against government officials, gambling operators and members of the Crime Syndicate,” he concluded.

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