



January 31, 2020

HB 3940: BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION TO BAN SWEEPSTAKES MACHINES

Dear Colleague:

Last fall, in the wake of revelations regarding a former House Member's advocacy for sweepstakes machines in Illinois, we introduced legislation to again attempt to enact a ban on these machines. Serious issues surrounding sweepstakes machines have been highlighted by various media reports over the past several years.

In many instances these machines have been known to be located in businesses which have been denied a video gaming license. These machines have been located in communities which have banned the use of video gaming machines in their towns. Sweepstakes machines are even marketed as "slot-style games" offering "jackpots" to players. Cash payouts, similar to video gaming machines, are available with sweepstakes machines.

We believe that these sweepstakes machines are, in practice, very similar to our state's highly-regulated video gaming machines. Since 2012 we have had legal video gaming which pays taxes and has state oversight. Yet, sweepstakes machines are unregulated, the owners are not subject to background checks, and the machines do not pay state or local taxes.

We urge you to take a look at our bipartisan legislation, House Bill 3940, and consider cosponsoring this legislation to ban sweepstakes machines.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us.

Sincerely,

Tim Butler
State Representative
87th District

Kelly Cassidy
State Representative
14th District

Jaime Andrade
State Representative
40th District

Keith Wheeler
State Representative
50th District