

New casino bill on fast track!

URGE STATE SENATORS TO OPPOSE SB 294

The Kansas senate vice president, Sen. John Vratil (R-Leawood), introduced a casino bill, **SB 294**, yesterday to provide revenue for "elementary, secondary and higher education."

The bill was introduced in the Senate Ways and Means Committee on a fast track for approval. The committee will hold public hearings Monday, March 14. Debate and vote by the full senate is expected later in the week.

The bill would permit state owned and operated casinos in eight counties, subject to approval by voters in each county. An unlimited number of so-called destination casinos would be permitted in Cherokee, Crawford, Ford, Geary, Sedgwick, and Wyandotte counties. Also, casinos would be permitted at the five parimutuel racetracks in Crawford, Greenwood, Harper, Sedgwick and Wyandotte counties.

This is a terrible bill!

1. It is an insult to the children and educators of Kansas. It sends the message that funding for educating our children and youth is a low priority, so using revenues from gambling, an unreliable revenue source at best, is OK.
2. The state would police and regulate the casinos it owns and operates, encouraging corruption of government officials. This is a recipe for disaster. That's why no other state is in the casino business.
3. The casinos would pull hundreds of millions of dollars from surrounding counties and businesses.
4. Accessibility is a key contributor to gambling addiction. Thousands of citizens living in communities and counties surrounding the casinos would become pathological gamblers, destroying thousands of families.

Please contact your state senator Monday or Tuesday to urge him/her to VOTE NO ON SB 294.

In addition, please contact the following senators to urge them to vote NO on the bill.

Terry Bruce (R-Hutchinson) 785-296-7300
Jay Emler (R-Lindsborg) 785-296-7354
Marci Francisco (D-Lawrence) 785-296-7364
Laura Kelly (D-Topeka) 785-296-7365
Carolyn McGinn (R-Sedgwick) 785-296-7377
Roger Pine (R-Lawrence) 785-296-7372
Roger Reitz (R-Manhattan) 785-296-7360
Derek Schmidt (R-Independence) 785-296-2497
Vicki Schmidt (R-Topeka) 785-296-7374
Jean Schodorf (R-Wichita) 785-296-7391
Dwayne Umbarger (R-Thayer) 785-296-7389
Dennis Wilson (R-Overland Park) 785-296-7383
David Wysong (R-Mission Hills) 785-296-7369

To find the name of your senator or to send him/her an email, go to www.kslegislature.org on the internet and click on "Find your legislator" under "Hot Items."

If you prefer to telephone the CAPITOL HOTLINE to deliver your message, the telephone number is **1-800-432-3924**.

Thank you so much for your support.

Glenn O. Thompson
Executive Director
Stand Up For Kansas
(316) 634-2674
www.StandUpForKansas.org