

## **Support Gaming Expansion**

Submitted by Delegate: John Coli, Jr, Teamsters 727

WHEREAS, the Illinois Riverboat Gambling Act was enacted in February 1990, making Illinois the second state in the nation to legalize riverboat gambling, with the first riverboat casino in Illinois opening in September of 1991 in Alton; and

WHEREAS, there are currently ten casinos operating throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the Video Gaming Act was enacted in July of 2009, authorizing the placement of up to five Video Gaming Terminals (VGTs) in licensed retail establishments, truck stops, and veteran and fraternal organizations; and

WHEREAS, In 2017 the Illinois Senate passed Senate Bill 7 to expand gaming to the cities of Chicago, Danville, Park City, Williamson County, Rockford and in to the South Suburbs of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the legislation provided horse racing facilities the ability to conduct electronic gaming (slot machines) which would save thousands of direct and indirect jobs in the Illinois horse racing industry; and

WHEREAS, expansion of gaming in Illinois is estimated to create 20,000 new jobs and generate over \$1 billion in licensing fees; and

WHEREAS, Illinois is currently losing millions of dollars of gaming revenue annually to the neighboring states of Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin and Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of the legislation would create an estimated 4,500 construction jobs to build and expand gaming facilities; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Illinois AFL-CIO urges the Governor and the members of the General Assembly to work together to pass legislation to expand gaming in Illinois to create jobs and provide needed revenue for the Education Assistance Fund and the Capital Projects Fund; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the legislation at a minimum contain the expansion of gaming as outlined in SB 7 of the 100th General Assembly including new casinos in Chicago, Danville, Park City, Williamson County, Rockford and in to the South Suburbs of Chicago and electronic gaming (slots) at the six existing horse racing facilities in the State of Illinois.