

Casino gambling and sports betting is up for debate again in the Georgia General Assembly, with special interests spending extravagantly to advance their profit-driven legislation. While the gambling lobby will attempt to convince you that this legalized fraud will advance the economic, education, and social interests of our state, the data and research paints a drastically different picture.

THE “ABC’S” OF GAMBLING

A: Addiction

- Gambling addiction is real and is now **classified like opioid** and other drug addictions by the American Psychiatric Association in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. (APA, DSM-5)
- While some Georgians are already addicted to gambling, researchers estimate that the creation of Georgia casinos and legalization of online sports betting would increase current addiction rates by 100%. (U.S. CONGRESS GAMBLING COMM’N RPT., NGISC)
- Every addicted gambler **creates more costs for Georgia taxpayers** (social services, public safety, etc.) According to estimates, the legalization of gambling would create 17,000 to 33,000 new addicted gamblers – **costing taxpayers \$476 million to \$3.43 billion in additional expenses.** (GAMBLING IN AM., STANFORD LAW J.)
- Gambling addictions **disproportionately affect minority communities**, with more than double to triple the percentages of African-Americans and Native Americans who become addicted, as compared to the percentages of white gamblers. (2021 ILL. LAW REV. art. by Emory Law Prof. Vandall, also art. at pp. 1772-73)

B: Bankruptcies and Lost Jobs

- Casinos create new jobs but gambling addiction generates personal and business **bankruptcies**, which **increase by 18-42%**, result in a net 5,500 to 15,700 lost jobs annually. (See, e.g., EMORY BANKRUPTCY LAW J.)
- Around a casino or large gambling facility, local businesses see 10% less spending on food and 25% less spending on clothing. (Univ. Nevada Prof. Thompson, WIS. STUDIES)

C: Crime

- Some gambling addicts resort to crime with communities within 50 miles of gambling facilities seeing nearly a 10% spike in crime every year they are in operation. (REV. ECON & STATS., Harvard, MIT, UGA statistics; see Nov. 2021 ILL. LAW REV.)
- Casinos are responsible for **spikes in human trafficking and prostitution.** Experts believe that Georgia could experience a **35-75% increase** following the legalization of gambling. (U.S. INT’L GAMBLING RPT., reprinting 100s of studies)
- Gambling impacts our children too. According to the Campaign for Gambling-Free Kids, over half of underage kids (16-year-old) have gambling apps on their smartphones.” (U.S. GAMBLING COMM’N RPT.; see gamblingfreekids.org)

S: Suicide

- **One third** of addicted gamblers attempt suicide. (Gamblers Anonymous; see Ga. St. Univ.; Prof. Grinols, GAMBLING IN AM.)
- Under current Georgia gambling proposals, Georgia can anticipate increased suicide attempts by **at least 5,750** newly addicted adults and kids. (*Id.*)

There’s no doubt:
Legalized gambling is
a bad bet for Georgia.

PARTNERS

