



# Lake County Illinois

## Legislation Text

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File #: 23-0399, Version: 1

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Special recognition promoting March as National Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

**WHEREAS**, Lake County joins Nicasa Behavioral Health Services, the National Council on Problem Gambling, and the Illinois Council on Problem Gambling in promoting March 2023 as National Problem Gambling Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, promoting National Problem Gambling Awareness Month provides an opportunity to educate the public and policymakers about the social and financial effectiveness of services available for problem gambling; and

**WHEREAS**, problem gambling is a public health issue affecting millions of Americans of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds in all communities and has a significant societal and economic cost; and

**WHEREAS**, about 20,000 Lake County residents struggle with a gambling disorder, and adolescents and young adults are at a greater risk than adults; and

**WHEREAS**, currently, there are over 350 establishments in Lake County with almost 2,000 video gaming terminals; and

**WHEREAS**, many factors lead to gambling becoming a disorder, but problem gambling is treatable. Treatment is effective in minimizing harm to both individuals, business owners, and society as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, Lake County residents are encouraged to reach out for resources, including counseling, treatment, self-help and support groups by contacting Nicasa at 847-546-6450, calling or texting 211, contacting the state's 24-hour helpline at 800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537), or sending a text to GAMB at 833234; and

**WHEREAS**, Lake County has led the way in funding various social service agencies to help prevent and mitigate the social costs of problem gambling.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RECOGNIZED**, that March be recognized as National Problem Gambling Awareness Month in Lake County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RECOGNIZED** that the Lake County Board advocates for responsible

policymaking, research, prevention, and treatment of problem gambling and encourages residents to have a dialogue about problem gambling.

**DATED** in Waukegan, Illinois on March 14, 2023.