



# Lake County Illinois

## Legislation Text

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Special recognition promoting March 2024 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 2024 as National Problem Gambling Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, creating understanding around National Problem Gambling Awareness Month educates 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 over 2,000 video gaming terminals and a temporary casino. They are partnering with Nicasa Behavioral Health Services to provide screenings to players as part of National Problem Gambling Screening Day; and

**WHEREAS**, many factors lead to gambling becoming a disorder, but problem gambling is treatable. Treatment is effective at minimizing harm to individuals, business owners, and increasing quality of life; 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 costs of problem gambling.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RECOGNIZED**, that this County Board of Lake County, Illinois recognizes March 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** at Waukegan, Illinois, on March 12, 2024.