



To the Joliet City Council:

The Illinois Municipal League recently issued a memo to Home Rule communities in Illinois that permit video gaming encouraging them to act quickly if they want to enact a "Player Push Tax" on video gaming and now the City of Joliet is considering enacting such a tax in Joliet.

The so called "Penny Push Tax" or "Player Push Tax" assesses a municipal tax every time a player initiates play on a video gaming terminal, regardless of the amount wagered.

The IML memo is in response to Illinois Senate Bill 521 designed to clarify what was originally statutorily authorized. SB 521 overwhelmingly passed the House, 96-11, and is set for a concurrence vote this fall in the Senate.

We are urging you to please ignore the IML's memo advising you of this harmful tax. For one, the bill contains a "grandfather" provision for ordinances enacted before July 1, 2021. Ordinances passed afterwards will only spurn new lawsuits challenging their validity under state law and will not guarantee more local revenues from video gaming.

Additionally, video gaming is an important part of the livelihood of your local businesses. These businesses have and continue to pay significant taxes on video gaming revenue. Since January of 2018, the City of Joliet has collected just under \$3 million in tax revenue from video gaming. This does not include the sales tax revenue and other taxes and fee the city receives. Having to paying more in taxes would be a tremendous burden on local businesses.

Since Public Act 101-31 was enacted in June 2019, video gaming has generated more than \$336 million for local municipalities. Video Gaming is paying its fair share in taxes already. In addition, not one extra cent has been collected in any community that has enacted a Push Tax, instead, they are in court attempting to justify their actions. Please do not put local businesses and employees at risk by following the shortsighted, unproven lead of 3 Illinois communities.

On behalf of the 83 licensed establishments in Joliet with video gaming and on behalf of the Support Main Street Illinois Coalition, we urge you to oppose the harmful "Player Push Tax."

Signed,

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Support Main Street Illinois Coalition

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