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**Bar Owners Push for Legalized Video Gambling Machines**

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 **Bar Owners Push for Legalized Video Gambling Machines** By **Anthony Ponce**  
 News 8 @ 6:00



INDIANAPOLIS - Bar owners are gearing up to make another push at the Statehouse for legalized video gambling machines. The State Senate is hearing a bill Tuesday that would allow slot machines at horse racing tracks and bar owners are pushing for an amendment to this bill that would include legalizing video gambling machines in bars.

"It's something where you're putting quarters and dollars into a slot, it's not big payoffs, it's not a life changing event for anybody," said Brad Klopfenstein, Indiana Licensed Beverage Association.

The machines are illegal in Indiana, but the Indiana Licensed Beverage Association says there are 20,000 in Indiana and right now, the machines are in places where kids and teens can easily get to them.

"Unfortunately, what's happened is these machines have left the bars, but they've gone into convenience stores, truck stops, we've seen them in bait shops," said Klopfenstein.

Klopfenstein said if they are legalized in bars, underage Hoosiers will not have access to them.

"So what we're saying is this really isn't an expansion of gambling, it's getting a handle on something that's been very prolific and has gone way underground," he said.

"I disagree whole-heartedly. He's just trying to justify a way in which the tavern owners and the beverage commission can get more money for their bottom line," said Lorin Clemenz, Indiana Coalition Against Legalized Gambling.

Clemenz is on the opposite end of the debate; he fears legalized video gambling in bars will turn Indiana into a statewide casino.

"The closer the locations are to people, the greater the number of addictions," he said.

And while some argue the machines will net the state hundreds of millions per year in revenue, Clemenz says legalized machines would be taking advantage of people.

"We're really encouraging the citizens of Indiana to be losers, and I hate to think of Indiana being that, but we're already there," Clemenz said.

Members of the Beverage Association will be at the Statehouse Tuesday morning and afternoon to push legalizing the machines. Those against the move say they plan on meeting directly with Governor Daniels next Monday.

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