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Daniels Open To Legalizing, Limiting Video Gambling In Bars

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INDIANAPOLIS -- Acknowledging that illegal video gambling is widespread in Indiana, Mitch Daniels told reporters Friday that he'd consider any proposal that would legalize the activity.

Daniels generally opposes expansion of gambling, and says he has no interest in backing gambling in bars just for the purposes of allowing state and local governments to collect

But in his weekly press conference at the Statehouse Friday, Daniels said the state's ban on gambling in bars is widely ignored -- enforced only after complaints or for flagrant violations that it might be good if the state would legalize it to control it.



"It is a reality that this gambling is now in a Wild West, unregulated, widespread fashion," Daniels said. "If somebody proposes a way to reduce it, and regulate it, I'd go for it."

Brad Klopfenstein, a lobbyist for video slot machine owners, said legalizing video gambling in bars would be an excellent idea. "The move would be a boost to the small business owners."

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