

# Gov, Jones push casino plan that would help CTA

**SPRINGFIELD |**  
**House not likely to go along**

BY DAVE MCKINNEY  
Sun-Times Springfield Bureau Chief

SPRINGFIELD — Gov. Blagojevich and Senate President Emil Jones on Monday dusted off plans for a city casino and two other new gambling venues to fund up to \$250 million in subsidies for the Chicago area's cash-strapped mass-transit systems.

With a Senate vote on the plan looming, the package appears dead on arrival in the House, where a panel rejected a Senate-crafted deal last June to add four casinos. Huddling late into the

evening Monday, Blagojevich and Jones (D-Chicago) made intense efforts to woo Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson (R-Greenville) in a bid to pick up Republican votes.

The package, part of a \$26.4 billion state capital program, would steer operating funds to the Regional Transportation Authority — which faces a Nov. 4 cash crunch that could lead to fare hikes and service cuts for bus and train riders.

The proposed capital program would be the largest in state history and fund road, bridge and school construction.

But an aide to House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago) predicted little appetite for the plan in the House because of how it would be paid for — gaming,

Jones and Blagojevich avoided reporters all day, but one key Senate Democrat expressed frustration that they would be moving forward with the plan without Madigan's involvement.

"There is no order here . . . and the public suffers," said Sen. Ira Silverstein (D-Chicago).

Mayor Daley let the Democrats running state government have it for months of "ego battles" that have yielded inaction on schools and mass transit.

"We can see what's happening in Springfield. Nothing is getting done down there," the mayor said. "Why don't they just send it back to the City Council and we'll show you how to do it?"

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# No one needs thousands of baby photos

**But every moment of our lives seems to be pictured nowadays**

If you're a typical child or teenager in a typical family, I'll bet there are more photos of you in existence than all the pictures taken of your parents, and their parents, and THEIR parents, in their entire lives.

Not that your pics are chronologically stored in neatly arranged photo albums. Most of the photos probably have never even reached the print-out stage.

But they exist. On photo-sharing sites, on storage disks, in picture files on desktop computers. Nearly every day, somebody's taking your picture with a digital camera or a cell phone.

And sometimes it's more like two dozen times a day.

Consider the AP story about one Lindsay Nie of New York, who gave birth to a little girl named Amber last December.

When Nie was pregnant, her mother gave her a photo album filled with pictures of Nie as a baby and a child — but "she . . . noticed many gaps in the collection, in some cases months or even a year in length," according to the AP story.

"So after Nie gave birth to Amber . . . she was determined to leave a better record, a daily diary through imagery. She slips her Canon PowerShot SD450 digital camera anywhere she goes and has snapped more than 6,500 photos in nine months."

For those of you keeping score at home, that's the equivalent of snapping off a 24-picture roll of film every day.

If some mother circa 1975 used up a 24-pic roll every single day with pictures of her newborn, the neighbors would be talking about having her committed.

### All my memories come in pixels

In the recent film "2 Days in Paris," Julie Delpy laments that her boyfriend spent their entire holiday taking photos of famous sites instead of actually looking at and absorbing the scene. *As if the world needed another 45 pictures of the canals of Venice.*

You see this all the time. People at the zoo, at ball games, at parks and concerts and parties and restaurants, everywhere really — and they spend more time setting up photos and taking photos and checking out the images of the photos than living in the moment.

When Barry Bonds stepped to the plate just one home run away from breaking Henry Aaron's record, the fans took out their digital cameras by the thousands, igniting the flashes with every pitch. Bonds himself said it was blinding at times.

Wouldn't it be cooler to say you saw the home run — or even better, an untainted sports moment — instead of saying, "Here's the picture I took when Bonds hit the homer. Well, that's the guy's head in front of me, but you can see Barry's shoulder just to the left of the guy's ear."

We have become a nation of documentarians, snapping still photos or shooting videos of everything we do.

Go through an "old" photo album from as recently as 10 or 15 years ago, and most if not all of the pictures are commemorating special events.

*Here we are on Christmas morning . . . there's me on my 11th birthday . . . I can't believe I wore that tux to Homecoming . . . that's my parents' 25th wedding anniversary . . .*

You don't see too many pictures of everyday stuff.

Now we take pictures of EVERYTHING — not because life is any more interesting, but simply because the technology exists. The reason so many 20-year-olds are so comfortable in front of the cameras on shows such as "The Hills" or "The Real World" is these kids have been in front of cameras of some kind their entire lives.

### Of memories and memory cards

In a way that's kinda neat, to invoke the Costnerian phrase. Sometimes our best memories are centered on some simple moment that meant the world to us. When you look back on a particular relationship or time in your life, the first image might not be a New Year's Eve party or a special occasion — it might just be that Sunday morning when you lounged around with coffee and the newspapers, deciding not to answer the phone all day no matter what. If a young couple has a moment like that in 2007, there's a chance one of them will snap a pic at some point during the day, just for the grins of it. Nothing wrong with that.

But even if you have the most adorable baby in the universe — and I'm sure you DO have the most adorable baby in the universe — you do not need 6,500 photos of that child's first nine months of existence.

Put the camera down. Live the moment. And learn to trust your memories.

*Nearly every day, somebody's taking your picture with a digital camera or a cell phone.*

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