

House Bill 346

By: Representatives Barnard of the 166th, Keen of the 179th, Harbin of the 118th, Stephens of the 164th, Graves of the 137th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 27 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions relative to the Georgia Lottery for Education, so as to provide
3 for methods of payment of lottery tickets; to authorize the establishment of a financial
4 account; to provide for the deposit of funds into individual accounts by members of the
5 public; to provide for methods of deposit; to provide that no funds deposited shall be
6 refunded; to provide for abandoned accounts; to authorize and direct the board of trustees to
7 devise a method pursuant to which a person who is eligible to purchase a Georgia lottery
8 ticket may purchase a share in a lottery game by means of a public or private computer
9 terminal or other electronic means; to provide for periodic progress reports; to provide for
10 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

13 Article 1 of Chapter 27 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
14 general provisions relative to the Georgia Lottery for Education, is amended by striking in
15 its entirety paragraph (2) of Code Section 50-27-10, relating to adoption by the board of
16 procedures regulating the conduct of lottery games, and inserting in lieu thereof the
17 following:

18 "(2) The sale price of tickets or shares and the manner of sale; provided, however, that
19 all sales shall be ~~for cash only and payment by checks, credit cards, charge cards, or any~~
20 ~~form of deferred payment is prohibited~~ by cash, certified funds, debit card, electronic
21 transaction, or credit card; provided, further, that any deposits by credit card shall be
22 limited to \$5.00 per day;"

23

24 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

25 Said article is further amended by inserting immediately following Code Section 50-27-23
26 a new Code section to read as follows:

1 "50-27-23.1.

2 (a) The corporation is authorized to establish a financial account designed so that any
3 person who is eligible to purchase Georgia lottery tickets can establish an individual
4 account with Internet access and the ability to monitor and make deposits into the account.
5 Such individual account shall not bear interest. Funds deposited into an individual account
6 shall not be refunded, and the only withdrawals allowed shall be a debiting of the account
7 for the on-line purchase of lottery tickets. Deposits to the individual accounts may be made
8 by any means allowed by Code Section 50-27-10 for the purchase of lottery tickets. Any
9 such individual account showing no activity for a period of one year shall be deemed
10 abandoned and the funds therein shall become the funds of the corporation and treated in
11 the same manner as unclaimed prizes. The corporation is authorized to establish a method
12 so that any person eligible to purchase lottery tickets may establish an account and
13 purchase shares in a lottery game on the Internet by deducting the cost of the purchase from
14 his or her individual account.

15 (b) The board is authorized and directed to devise a method pursuant to which a person
16 who is eligible to purchase a lottery ticket may purchase tickets or shares in lottery games
17 either through a lottery retailer or by using public or private computer terminals or other
18 electronic devices or means. Such method may be as provided in subsection (a) of this
19 Code section or by such other method as the board deems suitable. The board is authorized
20 to determine which games may be so played and may limit the persons authorized to
21 purchase tickets or shares to Georgia residents. The board is further authorized to make
22 such provisions as may be necessary to comply with federal laws. The board shall initiate
23 the provisions of this subsection not later than December 31, 2007, and shall make periodic
24 progress reports to the Georgia Lottery Corporation Legislative Oversight Committee, the
25 Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with
26 the first such report being due not later than December 31, 2005."

27 **SECTION 3.**

28 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.