

House Bill 515

By: Representatives Freeman of the 140th, Hill of the 180th, Knight of the 126th, Mitchell of the 88th, Jerguson of the 22nd, 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 "Lottery for Education Act," so as to define
3 certain terms; to provide that under certain conditions lottery winnings may be assigned; to
4 provide for a court order; to provide for findings of fact; to provide for notice and
5 acknowledgment; to provide for liens and bankruptcy; to provide for an exemption from
6 liability; to provide for a fee; to provide for certain restrictions and limitations; to provide for
7 related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
8 purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

11 Article 1 of Chapter 27 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
12 general provisions relative to the "Lottery for Education Act," is amended by revising Code
13 Section 50-27-3, relating to definitions, as follows:

14 "50-27-3.

15 As used in this chapter, the term:

16 (1) 'Administrative expenses' means operating expenses, excluding amounts set aside for
17 prizes, regardless of whether such prizes are claimed and excluding amounts held as a
18 fidelity fund pursuant to Code Section 50-27-19.

19 (2) 'Assignee' means any person or third party other than the winner to whom any portion
20 of a prize or any right of any person to a prize awarded payable by the corporation in
21 installment payments may be transferred or assigned pursuant to an appropriate judicial
22 order as provided in Code Section 50-27-24.1.

23 (3) 'Assignment' means the transfer of any portion of a prize or any right of any person
24 to a prize awarded payable by the corporation in installment payments to any person or
25 third party pursuant to an appropriate judicial order as provided in Code Section
26 50-27-24.1.

1 (4) 'Assignor' means any person receiving installment payments seeking to assign or
2 transfer any portion of a prize or any right of any person to a prize awarded to an assignee
3 or any person or third party pursuant to an appropriate judicial order as provided in Code
4 Section 50-27-24.1.

5 ~~(2)~~(5) 'Board' means the board of directors of the Georgia Lottery Corporation.

6 ~~(3)~~(6) 'Capital outlay projects' means the acquisition, construction, installation,
7 modification, renovation, repair, extension, renewal, replacement, or rehabilitation of
8 land, interests in land, buildings, structures, facilities, or other improvements and the
9 acquisition, installation, modification, renovation, repair, extension, renewal,
10 replacement, rehabilitation, or furnishing of fixtures, machinery, equipment, computers,
11 software, laboratories, furniture, textbooks, and reference material or other property of
12 any nature whatsoever used on, in, or in connection with educational facilities.

13 ~~(4)~~(7) 'Casino gambling' means a location or business for the purpose of conducting
14 illegal gambling activities, but excluding the sale and purchase of lottery tickets or shares
15 as authorized by this chapter.

16 ~~(5)~~(8) 'Chief executive officer' means the chief executive officer of the Georgia Lottery
17 Corporation.

18 ~~(6)~~(9) 'Corporation' means the Georgia Lottery Corporation.

19 ~~(7)~~(10) 'Educational facilities' means land, structures, and buildings owned or operated
20 by and through the board of regents, the State Board of Education, the Department of
21 Technical and Adult Education, or by any city, county, or independent school system
22 within this state; provided, however, that a public road or highway leading to an
23 educational facility shall not be considered an educational facility.

24 ~~(8)~~(11) 'Educational purposes and programs' means capital outlay projects for
25 educational facilities; tuition grants, scholarships, or loans to citizens of this state to
26 enable such citizens to attend colleges and universities located within this state,
27 regardless of whether such colleges and universities are owned or operated by the board
28 of regents or to attend institutions operated under the authority of the Department of
29 Technical and Adult Education; costs of providing to teachers at accredited public
30 institutions who teach levels K-12, personnel at public postsecondary technical institutes
31 under the authority of the Department of Technical and Adult Education, and professors
32 and instructors within the University System of Georgia the necessary training in the use
33 and application of computers and advanced electronic instructional technology to
34 implement interactive learning environments in the classroom and to access the
35 state-wide distance learning network; costs associated with repairing and maintaining
36 advanced electronic instructional technology; voluntary pre-kindergarten; and an
37 education shortfall reserve.

1 ~~(9)~~(12) 'Lottery,' 'lotteries,' 'lottery game,' or 'lottery games' means any game of chance
2 approved by the board and operated pursuant to this chapter, including, but not limited
3 to, instant tickets, on-line games, and games using mechanical or electronic devices but
4 excluding pari-mutuel betting and casino gambling as defined in this Code section.

5 ~~(10)~~(13) 'Major procurement contract' means any gaming product or service costing in
6 excess of \$75,000.00, including, but not limited to, major advertising contracts, annuity
7 contracts, prize payment agreements, consulting services, equipment, tickets, and other
8 products and services unique to the Georgia lottery, but not including materials, supplies,
9 equipment, and services common to the ordinary operations of a corporation.

10 ~~(11)~~(14) 'Member' or 'members' means a director or directors of the board of directors
11 of the Georgia Lottery Corporation.

12 ~~(12)~~(15) 'Member of a minority' means an individual who is a member of a race which
13 comprises less than 50 percent of the total population of the state.

14 ~~(13)~~(16) 'Minority business' means any business which is owned by:

15 (A) An individual who is a member of a minority who reports as his or her personal
16 income for Georgia income tax purposes the income of such business;

17 (B) A partnership in which a majority of the ownership interest is owned by one or
18 more members of a minority who report as their personal income for Georgia income
19 tax purposes more than 50 percent of the income of the partnership; or

20 (C) A corporation organized under the laws of this state in which a majority of the
21 common stock is owned by one or more members of a minority who report as their
22 personal income for Georgia income tax purposes more than 50 percent of the
23 distributed earnings of the corporation.

24 ~~(14)~~(17) 'Net proceeds' means all revenue derived from the sale of lottery tickets or
25 shares and all other moneys derived from the lottery less operating expenses.

26 ~~(15)~~(18) 'Operating expenses' means all costs of doing business, including, but not
27 limited to, prizes, commissions, and other compensation paid to retailers, advertising and
28 marketing costs, personnel costs, capital costs, depreciation of property and equipment,
29 funds for compulsive gambling education and treatment, amounts held in or paid from
30 a fidelity fund pursuant to Code Section 50-27-19, and other operating costs.

31 ~~(16)~~(19) 'Pari-mutuel betting' means a method or system of wagering on actual races
32 involving horses or dogs at tracks which involves the distribution of winnings by pools.
33 Such term shall not mean lottery games which may be predicated on a horse racing or dog
34 racing scheme that does not involve actual track events. Such term shall not mean
35 traditional lottery games which may involve the distribution of winnings by pools.

36 ~~(17)~~(20) 'Person' means any individual, corporation, partnership, unincorporated
37 association, or other legal entity.

1 ~~(18)~~(21) 'Retailer' means a person who sells lottery tickets or shares on behalf of the
2 corporation pursuant to a contract.

3 ~~(19)~~(22) 'Share' means any intangible evidence of participation in a lottery game.

4 ~~(20)~~(23) 'Ticket' means any tangible evidence issued by the lottery to provide
5 participation in a lottery game.

6 ~~(21)~~(24) 'Vendor' means a person who provides or proposes to provide goods or services
7 to the corporation pursuant to a major procurement contract, but does not include an
8 employee of the corporation, a retailer, or a state agency or instrumentality thereof. Such
9 term does not include any corporation whose shares are publicly traded and which is the
10 parent company of the contracting party in a major procurement contract."

11 SECTION 2.

12 Said article is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (c) of Code Section
13 50-27-24, relating to prize proceeds subject to state income tax, attachments, garnishments,
14 or executions, validation of winning tickets, prohibited purchases, money-dispensing
15 machines, and unclaimed prize money, as follows:

16 "(1) ~~No~~ Except as provided in Code Section 50-27-24.1, no prize, any portion of a prize,
17 or any right of any person to a prize awarded shall be assignable. Any prize or any
18 portion of a prize remaining unpaid at the death of a prize winner shall be paid to the
19 estate of the deceased prize winner or to the trustee of a trust established by the deceased
20 prize winner as settlor if a copy of the trust document or instrument has been filed with
21 the corporation along with a notarized letter of direction from the settlor and no written
22 notice of revocation has been received by the corporation prior to the settlor's death.
23 Following a settlor's death and prior to any payment to such a successor trustee, the
24 corporation shall obtain from the trustee a written agreement to indemnify and hold the
25 corporation harmless with respect to any claims that may be asserted against the
26 corporation arising from payment to or through the trust. Notwithstanding any other
27 provisions of this Code section, any person, pursuant to an appropriate judicial order,
28 shall be paid the prize to which a winner is entitled;"

29 SECTION 3.

30 Said article is further amended by adding following Code Section 50-27-24 a new Code
31 section as follows:

32 "50-27-24.1.

33 (a) Under an appropriate judicial order, any prize or any portion of a prize or any right of
34 any person to a prize awarded payable by the corporation in installment payments may be
35 paid to any person other than the winner.

1 (b) The right of a person to a prize payable by the corporation in installment payments may
2 be voluntarily assigned as a whole or in part if the assignment is made to a person
3 designated in accordance with an order of the superior court in the county where the
4 corporation is located.

5 (c) On the filing by the assignor or the assignee in the superior court of a petition seeking
6 approval of a voluntary assignment, the court shall issue an order approving a voluntary
7 assignment and directing the corporation to make prize payments as a whole or in part to
8 the assignee if the court finds that:

9 (1) The assignment is in writing, is executed by the assignor, and is by its terms subject
10 to the laws of the state;

11 (2) The assignor provides a sworn affidavit attesting that he or she is of sound mind, is
12 in full command of the assignor's faculties, and is not acting under duress;

13 (3) The assignor has been advised about the assignment by an independent attorney who
14 is not related to and not compensated by the assignee or an affiliate of the assignee;

15 (4) The assignor understands that he or she will not receive the prize payments or parts
16 of payments during the years assigned;

17 (5) The assignor understands and agrees that the corporation, directors, and officials and
18 employees of the corporation are not liable or responsible for making any of the assigned
19 payments;

20 (6) The assignee provides the assignor with a one-page disclosure statement that sets
21 forth in boldface type not less than 14 points in size the payments being assigned by
22 amount and payment date, the purchase price, the rate of discount to present value
23 assuming daily compounding and funding on the contract date, and any origination or
24 closing fee that will be charged to the assignor; and

25 (7) The contract of assignment expressly states that the assignor has three business days
26 after signing the contract to cancel the assignment.

27 (d) Written notice of the petition and proposed assignment and any court hearing
28 concerning the petition and proposed assignment shall be given to the corporation's
29 counsel at least ten days before a court hearing. The corporation need not appear in or be
30 named as party to an action that seeks judicial approval of an assignment but may intervene
31 as of right in the action. A certified copy of a court order approving a voluntary
32 assignment shall be given to the corporation not later than ten days before the date on
33 which the payment is to be made.

34 (e) The corporation, not later than ten days after receiving a certified copy of a court order
35 approving a voluntary assignment, shall send the assignor and the assignee written
36 confirmation of the court approved assignment and the intent of the corporation to rely on

1 the assignment in making payments to the assignee named in the order free from any
2 attachments, garnishments, or executions.

3 (f) A voluntary assignment may not include or cover payments or parts of payments to the
4 extent that the payments are subject to state agency liens as specified under Code Section
5 50-27-53 or any bankruptcy proceedings as of the date of the court order approving a
6 voluntary assignment.

7 (g) The corporation, the directors, and officials and employees of the corporation are not
8 liable under this Code section after payment of an assigned prize is made. The assignor
9 and assignee shall hold harmless and indemnify the corporation, the directors, and the state
10 and its employees and agents from all claims, suits, actions, complaints, or liabilities
11 related to the assignment.

12 (h) The corporation may establish a reasonable fee to defray administrative expenses
13 associated with assignments made under this Code section, including a processing fee
14 imposed by a private annuity provider. The amount of the fee shall reflect the direct and
15 indirect costs of processing assignments.

16 (i) The assignee shall notify the corporation of its business location and mailing address
17 for payment purposes and of any change in location or address during the entire course of
18 the assignment.

19 (j) A court order or a combination of court orders under this Code section may not require
20 the corporation to divide a single prize payment among more than three different persons.
21 This Code section does not prohibit the substitution of assignees as long as there are not
22 more than three assignees at any one time for any one prize payment. Any subsequent
23 assignee is bound as the original assignee by the provisions of this Code section and the
24 terms and conditions of the contract of assignment.

25 (k) If the federal Internal Revenue Service or a court of competent jurisdiction issues a
26 determination letter, revenue ruling, or other public document declaring that the voluntary
27 assignment of prizes will affect the federal income tax treatment of lottery prize winners
28 who do not assign their prizes, then within 15 days after the corporation receives the letter,
29 ruling, or other document, the director of the corporation shall file a copy of it with the
30 Attorney General and a court may not issue an order authorizing a voluntary assignment
31 under this Code section.

32 (l) The provisions of this Code section shall prevail over any inconsistent provision in
33 Code Section 11-9-109."

34 **SECTION 4.**

35 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
36 without such approval.

- 1 **SECTION 5.**
- 2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.