

Senate Bill 54

By: Senators Harbison of the 15th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Hill of the 4th, Payne of the 54th, Anderson of the 43rd and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 27 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 lottery for education, so as to provide that the Georgia Lottery Corporation shall offer one
3 or more games to benefit veterans; to provide a short title; to provide for the deposit of
4 proceeds into the general fund; to provide for a special account to be appropriated for
5 veterans' programs; to provide for purposes for which appropriations shall be made; to
6 provide for lapsing of funds; to provide a conditional effective date and automatic repeal; to
7 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 27 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to lottery for
11 education, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

12 "ARTICLE 4

13 50-27-120.

14 This article shall be known and may be cited as the 'Georgia Lottery for Veterans Act.'

15 50-27-121.

16 The corporation shall offer one or more lottery games for the benefit of Georgia veterans.

17 The lottery game or games shall commence on January 1, 2021, or as soon thereafter as is

18 reasonably practical. The operation of the lottery game or games shall be governed by

19 Article 1 of this chapter. If any provision of this article is inconsistent with any other

20 provision of this chapter, then this article shall govern.

21 50-27-122.

22 On or before the fifteenth day of each quarter, the corporation shall transfer to the general
23 fund of the state treasury, for credit to the Lottery for Veterans Account for the preceding
24 quarter, the amount of all net proceeds during the preceding quarter from the lottery game
25 or games for the benefit of Georgia veterans. The state treasurer shall separately account
26 for net proceeds by establishing and maintaining a Lottery for Veterans Account within the
27 state treasury.

28 50-27-123.

29 Upon their deposit into the state treasury, any moneys representing a deposit of net
30 proceeds shall then become the unencumbered property of the State of Georgia and the
31 corporation shall have no power to agree or undertake otherwise. Such moneys shall be
32 invested by the state treasurer in accordance with state investment practices. All earnings
33 attributable to such investments shall likewise be the unencumbered property of the state
34 and shall accrue to the credit of the Lottery for Veterans Account.

35 50-27-124.

36 (a) In the budget report to the General Assembly, as a separate budget category entitled
37 'lottery for veterans proceeds,' the Governor shall estimate the amount of net proceeds and
38 treasury earnings thereon to be credited to the Lottery for Veterans Account during the
39 fiscal year and the amount of unappropriated surplus estimated to be accrued in the account
40 at the beginning of the fiscal year. The sum of estimated net proceeds, treasury earnings
41 thereon, and unappropriated surplus shall be designated 'lottery for veterans proceeds.'

42 (b) In the budget report, the Governor shall further make specific recommendations as to
43 the programs and purposes for which appropriations should be made from the Lottery for
44 Veterans Account. The General Assembly shall appropriate from the Lottery for Veterans
45 Account by specific reference to it, or by reference to 'lottery for veterans proceeds.' All
46 appropriations of lottery for veterans proceeds to any particular budget unit shall be made
47 together in a separate part entitled, identified, administered, and accounted for separately
48 as a distinct budget unit for lottery for veterans proceeds. Such appropriations shall
49 otherwise be made in the manner required by law for appropriations. Such appropriations
50 shall be made for one or more of the following:

51 (1) Veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder;

52 (2) Veterans' homelessness;

53 (3) The health insurance costs of veterans;

54 (4) Veterans' disability benefits, including, but not limited to, disability benefits provided
55 by veterans service organizations and veterans assistance commissions or centers;

56 (5) The long-term care of veterans; and

57 (6) Veteran employment and employment training.

58 50-27-125.

59 Appropriations for veterans' programs from the account not committed during the fiscal
60 year shall lapse to the general fund and shall be credited to the Lottery for Veterans
61 Account.

62 50-27-126.

63 Except as provided by this article, appropriations from the Lottery for Veterans Account
64 shall be subject to Part 1 of Article 4 of Chapter 12 of Title 45, the 'Budget Act.'"

65 **SECTION 2.**

66 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2021, only if an amendment to the
67 Constitution of Georgia is ratified at the time of the general election held in 2020 authorizing
68 the expenditure of lottery funds for the benefit of veterans' programs. Otherwise, this Act
69 shall stand automatically repealed on December 31, 2020.

70 **SECTION 3.**

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