

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6844

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Ways & Means, February 22, 2010

Title: An act relating to streamlining lottery accounts by transferring local accounts into the treasury custodial accounts, directing transfers of unclaimed prize money, and eliminating obsolete provisions.

Brief Description: Streamlining lottery accounts by transferring local accounts into the treasury custodial accounts, directing transfers of unclaimed prize money, and eliminating obsolete provisions.

Sponsors: Senator Prentice.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Ways & Means: 2/17/10, 2/22/10 [DPS, w/oRec].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6844 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Prentice, Chair; Fraser, Vice Chair, Capital Budget Chair; Tom, Vice Chair, Operating Budget; Fairley, Hobbs, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McDermott, Murray, Pridemore, Regala and Rockefeller.

Minority Report: That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senators Zarelli, Ranking Minority Member; Brandland, Carrell, Parlette, Pflug and Schoesler.

Staff: Dianne Criswell (786-7433)

Background: The Washington Lottery was established in 1982.

All revenues received from the sale of shared game lottery tickets (from the two multistate games Megamillions and Powerball) are deposited into the Shared Game Lottery Account, which is a local account outside of the state treasury. All other revenues received from the sale of lottery tickets are deposited into the State Lottery Account, another local account created outside of the state treasury. Lottery revenues, after payment of prizes and

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administrative expenses, are used for education construction, paying off stadium bonds, problem gambling services, economic development, and the General Fund.

After 180 days, two-thirds of unclaimed prize money is retained in the State Lottery Account for further use as prizes and one-third is deposited into the Economic Development Strategic Reserve Account.

Summary of Bill (Recommended Substitute): Two new accounts are created in the custody of the State Treasurer: the Shared Game Lottery Account and the State Lottery Account. No later than July 1, 2010, the State Lottery Commission must transfer to the newly created accounts all unobligated balances of the Shared Game Lottery Account and the State Lottery Accounts outside of the state treasury as of June 30, 2010.

The prize money, other than the deposits into the Economic Development Strategic Reserve Account, must be deposited into the Education Legacy Trust Account.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE (Recommended Substitute): The state lottery is expressly allowed to have change funds and petty cash.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 4, 2010.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: Other: The Lottery may not be able to issue checks quickly for smaller prizes.

Persons Testifying: Other: Arlen Harris, Lottery Commission.