

Public Safety and Security Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-992
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING DELINQUENT LOTTERY SALES AGENTS AND DISCLOSURE OF THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF LOTTERY WINNERS.
Vote Date: 3/16/2023
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 2/14/2023
File No.: 381

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would allow those who owe interest on delinquent lottery sales to apply for a hardship waiver. Under current law sales agents are required to pay all fees, this has been difficult for many sales agents to pay the fees to the state. Under this bill, they will apply for a hardship waiver with the president of the Connecticut Lottery Corporation (CLC). Upon approval the president can enter into an agreement for repayment of the delinquent fees, by permitting a payment schedule and/or reducing interest. Connecticut Lottery Corporation will be required to get permission from any person who wins the lottery in order to post their name, address and photo on their website. If someone requests their name to be removed from the CLC website.

Proposed Substitute Language

Section 1 substitute language has been added to clarify definitions of this bill.

Section 2 defines delinquency assessment. In addition, it specifies in detail the president's role in processing the hardship waiver. It also gives detail of the process of placing a lien on real estate owned by the sales agent or guarantor of said agent. Dept. of Revenue when notified can withhold a tax refund of such agent or guarantor of such agent. Said agent can in writing dispute the amount owed to the Department of Revenue at which time they will notify Department of Administrative Services, which in turn will contact the agent/guarantor to set up a hearing date.

Section 5 amends the bill regarding disclosure of posting to the CLC website to include winning lottery ticket, claims or is paid a winning wager from online sports watering or retail sports wagering or is paid a prize from a fantasy contest.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Maureen Magnan, Deputy Commissioner of Consumer Protection, State of Connecticut

Deputy Commissioner Magnan writes that DCP has no concern regarding the language and intent of this bill. DCP requests that the process of collections be changed to Department of Administrative Services as what was requested by CLC. DCP relies on DAS to provide collection efforts.

Colleen M. Murphy, Executive Director and General Counsel or Kathleen Ross, Managing Director and Associate General Counsel, Freedom of Information Commission (FOI)

FOI questions the public policy behind not disclosing names, address and photo of people who win the lottery. There are reasons that the names of winners who voluntarily participate in a lottery system offered by a quasi-public agency are published. This public information safeguards that winnings are distributed fairly and protects any wrongdoing. The publishing of this information will keep abuse from being hidden.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Christopher Davis, Government Relations and Responsible Gaming Manager of the Connecticut Lottery Corporation (CLC)

Mr. Davis writes in support of this bill. Under current law CLC cannot reduce the amount of interest applied to the delinquency making it difficult for some sales agents to pay. Allowing CLC to waive all or some interest will enable CLC to negotiate terms of repayment and help business owners the ability to avoid liens. CLC also supports the disclosure change for winners of the lottery. Often putting people on the website results in them being harassed, this also applies to winners of sports wagering bets.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Assistant Clerk

Date: 3/28/2023