
By: **Senators Astle, Gladden, and Hafer**
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CHAPTER_____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Lottery - Prize Winners - Voluntary Assignments**

3 FOR the purpose of enabling certain prize winners of the State lottery to voluntarily
4 assign prizes that are paid in installments under certain circumstances;
5 authorizing a court to issue an order approving a voluntary assignment if
6 assignors and assignees meet certain requirements; authorizing a court to order
7 a voluntary assignment if the court makes a certain finding; requiring that
8 certain notice be given to the State Lottery Agency at a certain time; prohibiting
9 assignments from including certain payments; discharging the State Lottery
10 Agency, its officials, and employees, from liability under certain circumstances;
11 providing that certain persons be held harmless and be indemnified from
12 certain proceedings related to the assignment; authorizing the State Lottery
13 Agency to establish a certain fee; requiring that a contract of assignment include
14 a certain affidavit completed by the assignee; specifying certain contents of the
15 affidavit; requiring that the assignee notify the State Lottery Agency of certain
16 information under certain circumstances; requiring that a husband and wife
17 who are co-owners of a prize assign the prize in a certain way; prohibiting
18 certain court orders from requiring the State Lottery Agency to divide a single
19 prize payment in a certain way; allowing the substitution of assignees under
20 certain circumstances; prohibiting a court from allowing an assignment under
21 certain circumstances; and generally relating to the State lottery.

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
23 Article - State Government
24 Section 9-122
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2004 Replacement Volume)

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
2 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article - State Government**

4 9-122.

5 (a) The regulations of the Agency shall provide for winning tickets to be drawn
6 at least once a week.

7 (b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, § 10-113.1 of the
8 Family Law Article, and § 11-618 of the Criminal Procedure Article, a prize won
9 under this subtitle is not assignable.

10 (2) If the prize winner dies before the prize is paid, the prize may be paid
11 to the estate of the prize winner.

12 (3) Under appropriate court order, a prize won under this subtitle may
13 be paid to a person other than the winner.

14 (4) (I) THE RIGHT OF A PERSON TO RECEIVE PAYMENT UNDER A
15 PRIZE THAT IS PAID IN INSTALLMENTS OVER TIME BY THE AGENCY MAY BE
16 VOLUNTARILY ASSIGNED AS A WHOLE OR IN PART, IF THE ASSIGNMENT IS MADE TO
17 A PERSON DESIGNATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN ORDER OF A COURT OF
18 COMPETENT JURISDICTION IN THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT WHERE THE ASSIGNING
19 PRIZE WINNER RESIDES OR WHERE THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE AGENCY IS
20 LOCATED.

21 (II) A COURT MAY ISSUE AN ORDER APPROVING A VOLUNTARY
22 ASSIGNMENT AND DIRECTING THE AGENCY TO MAKE PRIZE PAYMENTS AS A WHOLE
23 OR IN PART TO THE ASSIGNEE IF THE COURT FINDS THAT:

24 1. THE ASSIGNMENT IS IN WRITING, IS EXECUTED BY THE
25 ASSIGNOR, AND IS BY ITS TERMS SUBJECT TO THE LAWS OF THIS STATE;

26 2. THE ASSIGNOR PROVIDES A SWORN AFFIDAVIT
27 ATTESTING THAT THE ASSIGNOR IS OF SOUND MIND, IS IN FULL COMMAND OF THE
28 ASSIGNOR'S FACULTIES, AND IS NOT ACTING UNDER DURESS;

29 3. THE ASSIGNOR HAS BEEN ADVISED ABOUT THE
30 ASSIGNMENT BY AN INDEPENDENT ATTORNEY WHO IS NOT RELATED TO AND NOT
31 COMPENSATED BY THE ASSIGNEE OR AN AFFILIATE OF THE ASSIGNEE;

32 4. THE ASSIGNOR HAS RECEIVED INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL
33 OR TAX ADVICE CONCERNING THE EFFECTS OF THE ASSIGNMENT FROM AN
34 ATTORNEY OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL WHO IS UNRELATED TO AND IS NOT
35 COMPENSATED BY THE ASSIGNEE OR AN AFFILIATE OF THE ASSIGNEE;

1 5. THE ASSIGNOR UNDERSTANDS THAT THE ASSIGNOR WILL
2 NOT RECEIVE THE PRIZE PAYMENTS OR PARTS OF PAYMENTS DURING THE YEARS
3 ASSIGNED;

4 6. THE ASSIGNOR UNDERSTANDS AND AGREES THE AGENCY,
5 COMMISSION, AND OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE AGENCY ARE NOT LIABLE OR
6 RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THE ASSIGNED PAYMENTS;

7 7. THE ASSIGNEE PROVIDES THE ASSIGNOR WITH A
8 ONE-PAGE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT THAT SETS FORTH IN BOLD TYPE NOT LESS
9 THAN 14 POINTS IN SIZE THE PAYMENTS BEING ASSIGNED BY AMOUNT AND
10 PAYMENT DATE, THE PURCHASE PRICE, THE RATE OF DISCOUNT TO PRESENT VALUE
11 ASSUMING DAILY COMPOUNDING AND FUNDING ON THE CONTRACT DATE, AND ANY
12 ORIGINATION OR CLOSING FEE THAT WILL BE CHARGED TO THE ASSIGNOR; AND

13 8. THE CONTRACT OF ASSIGNMENT EXPRESSLY STATES
14 THAT THE ASSIGNOR HAS 5 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER SIGNING THE CONTRACT TO
15 CANCEL THE ASSIGNMENT.

16 (III) 1. WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT AND
17 ANY COURT HEARING CONCERNING THE PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT SHALL BE GIVEN
18 TO THE AGENCY'S COUNSEL AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE A COURT HEARING.

19 2. THE AGENCY NEED NOT APPEAR IN OR BE NAMED AS
20 PARTY TO AN ACTION THAT SEEKS JUDICIAL APPROVAL OF AN ASSIGNMENT BUT
21 MAY INTERVENE AS OF RIGHT IN THE ACTION.

22 3. A CERTIFIED COPY OF A COURT ORDER APPROVING A
23 VOLUNTARY ASSIGNMENT SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE AGENCY NOT LATER THAN 60
24 DAYS BEFORE THE DATE ON WHICH THE PAYMENT IS TO BE MADE.

25 (IV) A VOLUNTARY ASSIGNMENT MAY NOT INCLUDE OR COVER
26 PAYMENTS OR PARTS OF PAYMENTS TO THE EXTENT THAT THE PAYMENTS ARE
27 SUBJECT TO CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS, CRIMINAL RESTITUTION, OR BANKRUPTCY
28 PROCEEDINGS.

29 (V) 1. THE AGENCY, THE COMMISSION, AND OFFICIALS AND
30 EMPLOYEES OF THE AGENCY ARE NOT LIABLE UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH AFTER
31 PAYMENT OF AN ASSIGNED PRIZE IS MADE.

32 2. THE ASSIGNOR AND ASSIGNEE SHALL HOLD HARMLESS
33 AND INDEMNIFY THE AGENCY, THE COMMISSION, AND THE STATE AND ITS
34 EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS FROM ALL CLAIMS, SUITS, ACTIONS, COMPLAINTS, OR
35 LIABILITIES RELATED TO THE ASSIGNMENT.

36 (VI) 1. THE AGENCY MAY ESTABLISH A REASONABLE FEE TO
37 DEFRAY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH ASSIGNMENTS MADE
38 UNDER THIS SECTION, INCLUDING A PROCESSING FEE IMPOSED BY A PRIVATE
39 ANNUITY PROVIDER.

1 2. THE AMOUNT OF THE FEE SHALL REFLECT THE DIRECT
2 AND INDIRECT COSTS OF PROCESSING ASSIGNMENTS.

3 (VII) 1. A CONTRACT OF ASSIGNMENT IN WHICH THE ASSIGNOR IS
4 A LOTTERY WINNER SHALL INCLUDE A SWORN AFFIDAVIT PROVIDED BY THE
5 AGENCY AND COMPLETED BY THE ASSIGNEE.

6 2. THE AFFIDAVIT SHALL INCLUDE:

7 A. A SUMMARY OF ASSIGNEE CONTACTS WITH THE WINNER;

8 B. A SUMMARY OF ANY COMPLAINTS, LAWSUITS, CLAIMS, OR
9 OTHER LEGAL ACTIONS FROM LOTTERY WINNERS REGARDING CONDUCT OF THE
10 ASSIGNEE OR ITS AGENTS;

11 C. A STATEMENT THAT THE ASSIGNEE IS REGISTERED TO DO
12 BUSINESS IN THE STATE AND IS IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
13 ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION AND ANY OTHER LICENSING OR REGULATORY UNIT
14 WHOSE APPROVAL IS REQUIRED IN THE CONDUCT OF THE ASSIGNEE'S BUSINESS;

15 D. A BRIEF BUSINESS HISTORY OF THE ASSIGNEE;

16 E. A DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSINESS OF THE ASSIGNEE; AND

17 F. A STATEMENT OF THE ASSIGNEE'S PRIVACY AND
18 NONHARASSMENT POLICIES AND EXPRESS AFFIRMATION THAT THE ASSIGNEE HAS
19 FOLLOWED THOSE POLICIES IN THE STATE.

20 3. THE AFFIDAVIT SHALL BE PROVIDED ONLY BY THE
21 ASSIGNEE WHO ENTERS INTO THE CONTRACT WITH THE LOTTERY WINNER OR THE
22 ESTATE OF A LOTTERY WINNER.

23 (VIII) THE ASSIGNEE SHALL NOTIFY THE AGENCY OF ITS BUSINESS
24 LOCATION AND MAILING ADDRESS FOR PAYMENT PURPOSES AND OF ANY CHANGE
25 IN LOCATION OR ADDRESS DURING THE ENTIRE COURSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT.

26 (IX) AN ASSIGNMENT MAY BE MADE BY A HUSBAND AND WIFE WHO
27 ARE CO-OWNERS OF A PRIZE ONLY IF THEY JOINTLY ASSIGN THE PRIZE TO AN
28 ASSIGNEE.

29 (X) 1. A COURT ORDER OR A COMBINATION OF COURT ORDERS
30 UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT REQUIRE THE AGENCY TO DIVIDE A SINGLE PRIZE
31 PAYMENT AMONG MORE THAN THREE DIFFERENT PERSONS.

32 2. THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT THE SUBSTITUTION
33 OF ASSIGNEES AS LONG AS THERE ARE NOT MORE THAN THREE ASSIGNEES AT ANY
34 ONE TIME FOR ANY ONE PRIZE PAYMENT.

35 (XI) IF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OR A COURT OF
36 COMPETENT JURISDICTION ISSUES A DETERMINATION LETTER, REVENUE RULING,

1 OR OTHER PUBLIC DOCUMENT DECLARING THAT THE VOLUNTARY ASSIGNMENT OF
2 PRIZES WILL AFFECT THE FEDERAL INCOME TAX TREATMENT OF LOTTERY PRIZE
3 WINNERS WHO DO NOT ASSIGN THEIR PRIZES:

4 1. THE DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY SHALL IMMEDIATELY
5 FILE A COPY OF THE DOCUMENT WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL; AND

6 2. A COURT MAY NOT ISSUE AN ORDER AUTHORIZING A
7 VOLUNTARY ASSIGNMENT UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH.

8 (c) A licensed agent may pay in cash game prizes of not more than \$5,000.

9 (d) (1) In this subsection, the words "bank" and "guardian" and references to
10 a "member" of a "minor's family" have the meanings stated in § 13-301 of the Estates
11 and Trusts Article.

12 (2) If a minor wins a prize of less than \$5,000, the Director may give a
13 draft, as provided for in rules and regulations of the Agency payable to the order of
14 the minor, to:

15 (i) an adult member of the minor's family; or

16 (ii) a guardian of the minor.

17 (3) If a minor wins \$5,000 or more, the Director may deposit the prize in
18 a bank to the credit of 1 of the following, as custodian for the minor:

19 (i) an adult member of the minor's family; or

20 (ii) a guardian of the minor.

21 (4) A custodian under paragraph (3) of this subsection has the same
22 powers and duties as a custodian under the Maryland Uniform Transfers to Minors
23 Act.

24 (e) On payment of a prize in accordance with this section, the Director is
25 discharged of all liability.

26 (f) (1) A prize winner shall claim a prize within 182 days after the drawing
27 in which the prize is won.

28 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, the Director
29 shall keep an unclaimed prize:

30 (i) for 182 days after the drawing in which the prize is won, for
31 payment of the winner; and

32 (ii) then in an unclaimed prize fund for use for other prizes.

1 (3) For a game that the Agency designates as a bonus game or drawing
2 and that is not a daily or weekly State lottery drawing, the period for claiming a prize
3 may differ from the period set in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

4 (g) (1) Unless otherwise specifically provided by the laws of the State, and
5 except for prizes paid for any multistate lottery game, the State and every officer,
6 department, agency, board, commission, or other unit of State government may not
7 raise the defense of sovereign immunity in the courts of the State in an action in
8 contract brought by an annuitant or prize winner that is based on the liability of the
9 State to pay an annuitant or prize winner the prize that the annuitant is entitled to
10 receive in accordance with this subtitle and any regulations adopted under this
11 subtitle.

12 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State may raise the
13 defense of sovereign immunity to a contract action brought by an annuitant or prize
14 winner of any multistate lottery game, for any claim that exceeds \$200,000.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
16 effect July 1, 2005.