
By: **Senators Astle, Gladden, and Hafer**
Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2005
Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

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)

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

1

Article - State Government

2 9-122.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 5. THE ASSIGNOR UNDERSTANDS THAT THE ASSIGNOR WILL
35 NOT RECEIVE THE PRIZE PAYMENTS OR PARTS OF PAYMENTS DURING THE YEARS
36 ASSIGNED;

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

4 2. THE AFFIDAVIT SHALL INCLUDE:

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

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

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

13 D. A BRIEF BUSINESS HISTORY OF THE ASSIGNEE;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (XI) IF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OR A COURT OF
34 COMPETENT JURISDICTION ISSUES A DETERMINATION LETTER, REVENUE RULING,
35 OR OTHER PUBLIC DOCUMENT DECLARING THAT THE VOLUNTARY ASSIGNMENT OF
36 PRIZES WILL AFFECT THE FEDERAL INCOME TAX TREATMENT OF LOTTERY PRIZE
37 WINNERS WHO DO NOT ASSIGN THEIR PRIZES:

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

3 2. A COURT MAY NOT ISSUE AN ORDER AUTHORIZING A
4 VOLUNTARY ASSIGNMENT UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH.

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

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

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

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

13 (ii) a guardian of the minor.

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

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

17 (ii) a guardian of the minor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (g) (1) Unless otherwise specifically provided by the laws of the State, and
34 except for prizes paid for any multistate lottery game, the State and every officer,

1 department, agency, board, commission, or other unit of State government may not
2 raise the defense of sovereign immunity in the courts of the State in an action in
3 contract brought by an annuitant or prize winner that is based on the liability of the
4 State to pay an annuitant or prize winner the prize that the annuitant is entitled to
5 receive in accordance with this subtitle and any regulations adopted under this
6 subtitle.

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

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