

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 566
Ways and Means

(Delegate Ebersole)

State Lottery – Internet Sales of Subscription Plans – Authorization

This bill authorizes the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (SLGCA) to establish a system or program that allows for the purchase of a State lottery subscription plan through an electronic device that connects to the Internet, such as a personal computer or mobile device. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal. The bill authorizes, but does not require, institution of Internet sales of State lottery subscription plans. Further, availability of Internet subscription plans is not expected to significantly increase subscription plan participation or overall sales of lottery tickets in the State.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: SLGCA may not allow the establishment of any system or program that allows a person to purchase a State lottery ticket through an electronic device that connects to the Internet, such as a personal computer or mobile device.

State Fiscal Effect: Subscription players do not currently represent a significant source of revenue for the State Lottery. While there could be an influx of additional subscribers should online subscriptions be allowed, it is not likely that the bill will significantly increase the overall lottery player base or State revenues.

Currently, a subscription player must print a State Lottery subscription application from the Lottery's website and mail the completed application to SLGCA, along with a check, for processing. Following review of the application and payment, SLGCA then activates the player's subscription, and the player receives an email that the subscription has been activated for the requested number of drawings. SLGCA anticipates that the institution of Internet-based subscriptions may alleviate some staff time and processing costs. However, implementation of Internet subscription plans would require software upgrades, with associated costs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Comptroller's Office; Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 22, 2023
js/jrb

Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510