

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 618
Ways and Means

(Delegate Patterson)

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, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues increase, likely minimally, beginning in FY 2026 as the availability of Internet subscription plans is not expected to significantly increase subscription plan participation or overall sales of lottery tickets in the State. SLGCA can implement the bill with existing resources.

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: SLGCA currently offers State lottery subscriptions for Mega Millions, Powerball, Multi-Match, and Cash4Life games. Subscription players do not currently represent a significant source of revenue for the State Lottery. SLGCA reports it had approximately 6,000 active subscriptions as of December 2024. While there could be an

influx of additional subscribers should online subscriptions be allowed, it is not likely to significantly increase the overall lottery player base or State revenues. Thus, general fund revenues increase, likely minimally, beginning in fiscal 2026.

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 nominal costs. Therefore, SLGCA can implement the bill with existing resources.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 566 of 2023.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

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