



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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LOTTERY PRIZE TO FAMILY AFTER DEATH

House Bill 4640 as enrolled
Second Analysis (8-5-88)

RECEIVED

Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Young, Sr.
House Committee: State Affairs
Senate Committee: Regulatory Affairs

Mich. State Law Library

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

The lottery act provides that the right of a prizewinner may be assigned only to the estate of a deceased prizewinner. This often makes it difficult for family members of the deceased to collect the prize. Further, some people believe that winners of large lottery prizes should be guaranteed anonymity if so choose.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the lottery act to provide that payment of any prize drawn could be paid to the family members of a deceased prizewinner. If a prizewinner died before collecting the full amount of the prize, the Lottery Bureau would have to continue making the remaining prize payments to the prizewinner's surviving spouse and living children (in equal proportions) unless otherwise directed by the prizewinner. If there were no surviving spouse, living children, or other designated beneficiaries, the remaining prize payments would be made to the prizewinner's estate. The commissioner of the lottery or an officer or employee of the lottery would be prohibited from disclosing the name, address, or any other personal information concerning a winner of a prize greater than \$10,000 unless the winner of the prize agreed in writing to allow the disclosure. The personal information protected against disclosure under the bill would also be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill would have no fiscal implications to the state. (6-29-88)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The lottery act's provision that the right of a prizewinner may only be assigned to the estate of a deceased prizewinner makes it very difficult for family members to collect a prize. Family members must often spend many hours in court, as well as a great deal of money in lawyers' fees in order to establish their right to the prize. The bill would make it easier for a family to get money that should rightfully belong to it, without having to endure a taxing court battle.

For:

People are often forced to change their lifestyle after they win a lottery. The reporting of prizewinners to the public often ensures change in prizewinners' lifestyles. Prizewinners are often exposed in newspapers, and it is not uncommon for friends to treat prizewinners differently once they find out the amount to which the prizewinners are entitled. The bill would provide anonymity for lottery winners and help to avoid unnecessary disruption in their lives.

H.B. 4640 (8-5-88)