

ANONYMOUS LOTTERY WINNERS

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House Bill 4048 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Pat Outman

Committee: Regulatory Reform

Complete to 10-10-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4048 would amend the McCauley-Traxler-Law-Bowman-McNeely Lottery Act to prohibit the lottery commissioner, or an officer or employee of the Michigan Bureau of State Lottery, from disclosing the name, address, or any other personal information of an individual who has won a prize in a multistate lottery game (such as Powerball or Mega Millions) unless that individual agrees in writing to the disclosure.

Currently, the commissioner or an officer or employee of the bureau may disclose the name, address, or any other personal information concerning a winner of a prize awarded under a game played pursuant to a *joint enterprise* to the extent required under the joint enterprise participation agreement. By comparison, the information of an individual who has won a prize of greater than \$10,000 in the state lottery may not be disclosed unless that individual agrees in writing to the disclosure.

As used in the act, *joint enterprise* means any lottery activity in which the bureau participates pursuant to a written agreement between the state of Michigan and any state, territory, country, or other sovereignty as executed by the commissioner. The term does not include the state lottery created under the act.

The bill would also make other technical, nonsubstantive changes.

MCL 432.25

BACKGROUND:

The bill is similar to House Bill 4218 of the 2021-22 session, which was passed by the House of Representatives.¹

According to committee testimony, eleven other states have already protected winners of multistate games from having their identities disclosed. Supporters of the bill argue that guarding winners' privacy can help to protect against threats, scams, and even the possibility of physical violence against winners.

¹ <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2021-HB-4218>

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on lottery revenues and subsequent distributions to the School Aid Fund. Any fiscal impact estimate would depend on assumptions related to the bill's effect on lottery sales. According to the Michigan Bureau of State Lottery, the bill would reduce the bureau's ability to generate publicity and advertise prizes won for multistate games (Mega Millions, Powerball, and Lucky for Life). The Bureau of State Lottery has indicated that this would likely reduce sales, thereby reducing the annual distribution to the School Aid Fund. As background, the distribution to the School Aid Fund from lottery sales is estimated to be \$1.2 billion in FY 2022-23.

There would be no administrative costs to the Bureau of State Lottery associated with the changes required under the bill.

POSITIONS:

The Michigan Lottery indicated opposition to the bill. (10-3-23)

Legislative Analyst: Alex Stegbauer
Fiscal Analyst: Viola Bay Wild

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.