

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1069

Approved by the Governor April 12, 1996

Introduced by General Affairs Committee: Schellpeper, 18, Chairperson;
Cudaback, 36; Elmer, 44; Hartnett, 45; Hudkins, 21; Robak, 22;
Robinson, 16; Will, 8

AN ACT relating to the State Lottery Act; to amend sections 9-812 and 9-834, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1995; to change provisions relating to transfers of funds and disclosures by vendors; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 9-812, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1995, is amended to read:

9-812. (1) All money received from the operation of lottery games conducted pursuant to the State Lottery Act in Nebraska shall be deposited in the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund, which fund is hereby created. All payments of expenses of the operation of the lottery games shall be made from the State Lottery Operation Cash Fund. In accordance with legislative appropriations, money for payments for expenses of the division shall be transferred from the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund to the State Lottery Operation Cash Fund, which fund is hereby created. All money necessary for the payment of lottery prizes shall be transferred from the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund to the State Lottery Prize Trust Fund, which fund is hereby created. The amount used for the payment of lottery prizes shall not be less than forty percent of the dollar amount of the lottery tickets which have been sold. ~~Of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses, the State Treasurer shall transfer from the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund to the General Fund an amount equal to the initial appropriation to the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund with interest at the rate specified in section 45-104.02, as such rate may from time to time be adjusted. After the General Fund is repaid, at least twenty-five percent of the dollar amount of the lottery tickets which have been sold on an annualized basis shall be transferred from the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund to the Education Innovation Fund, the Solid Waste Landfill Closure Assistance Fund, the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, and the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund. Forty-nine and one-half percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses shall be transferred to the Education Innovation Fund. Beginning on July 15, 1993, and continuing through July 1, 1997, twenty-four and one-half percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses shall be transferred to the Solid Waste Landfill Closure Assistance Fund and twenty-five percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses shall be transferred to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund to be used as provided in the Nebraska Environmental Trust Act. After July 1, 1997, forty-nine and one-half percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses shall be transferred to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund to be used as provided in the Nebraska Environmental Trust Act. One percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses shall be transferred to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund to be used as provided in sections 83-162.01 to 83-162.04.~~

(2) The Education Innovation Fund is hereby created. Each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 1994-95, at least seventy-five percent of the lottery proceeds allocated to the Education Innovation Fund shall be available for disbursement. The Education Innovation Fund shall be allocated by the Governor through incentive grants to encourage the development of strategic school improvement plans by school districts for accomplishing high performance learning and to encourage schools to establish innovations in programs or practices that result in restructuring of school organization, school management, and instructional programs which bring about improvement in the quality of education. Such grants are intended to provide selected school districts, teachers or groups of teachers, nonprofit educational organizations, educational service units, or cooperatives funding for the allowable costs of implementing pilot projects and model programs.

Minigrants shall be available to school districts to support the development of strategic school improvement plans which shall include statements of purposes and goals for the districts. The plans shall also include the specific statements of improvement or strategic initiatives designed to improve quality learning for every student.

Major competitive grants shall be available to support innovative programs which are directly related to the strategic school improvement plans. The development of a strategic school improvement plan by a school district shall be required before a grant is awarded. Annual reports shall be made by program recipients documenting the effectiveness of the program in improving the quality of education as designed in the strategic school improvement plans. Special consideration shall be given to plans which contain public or private matching funds and cooperative agreements, including agreements for in-kind services. Purposes for which incentives would be offered shall include:

(a) Professional staff development programs to provide funds for teacher and administrator training and continuing education to upgrade teaching and administrative skills;

(b) The development of strategic school improvement plans by school districts;

(c) Educational technology assistance to public schools for the purchase and operation of computers, telecommunications equipment and services, and other forms of technological innovation which may enhance classroom teaching, instructional management, and districtwide administration pursuant to the state's goal of ensuring that all kindergarten through grade twelve public school districts or affiliated school systems have a direct connection to a statewide public computer information network by June 30, 2000. The telecomputing equipment and services needed to meet this goal may be funded under this subsection, section 79-4,248, section 79-2225, or any combination of such subsection and sections. Such telecommunications equipment, services, and forms of technical innovation shall be approved by the State Department of Education in consultation with the Department of Administrative Services to insure compatibility of technologies and compliance with statewide priorities;

(d) An educational accountability program to develop an educational indicators system to measure the performance and outcomes of public schools and to ensure efficiency in operations;

(e) Alternative programs for students, including underrepresented groups, at-risk students, and dropouts;

(f) Programs that demonstrate improvement of student performance against valid national and international achievement standards;

(g) Early childhood and parent education which emphasizes child development;

(h) Programs using decisionmaking models that increase involvement of parents, teachers, and students in school management;

(i) Increased involvement of the community in order to achieve increased confidence in and satisfaction with its schools;

(j) Development of magnet or model programs designed to facilitate desegregation;

(k) Programs that address family and social issues impairing the learning productivity of students;

(l) Programs enhancing critical and higher-order thinking capabilities;

(m) Programs which produce the quality of education necessary to guarantee a competitive work force;

(n) Programs designed to increase productivity of staff and students through innovative use of time;

(o) Training programs designed to benefit teachers at all levels of education by increasing their ability to work with educational technology in the classroom; and

(p) Approved programs or services under sections 79-4001 to 79-4004.

The Governor shall establish the Excellence in Education Council. The Governor shall appoint eleven members to the council including representatives of educational organizations, postsecondary educational institutions, the business community, and the general public, members of school boards and parent education associations, school administrators, and at least four teachers who are engaged in classroom teaching. The State Department of Education shall provide staff support for the council. The council shall have the following powers and duties:

(i) In consultation with the State Department of Education, develop and publish criteria for the awarding of grants for programs pursuant to this subsection;

(ii) Provide recommendations to the Governor regarding the selection of projects to be funded and the distribution and duration of project funding;

(iii) Establish standards, formats, procedures, and timelines for the successful implementation of approved programs funded by the Education Innovation Fund;

(iv) Assist school districts in determining the effectiveness of the innovations in programs and practices and measure the subsequent degree of improvement in the quality of education;

(v) Consider the reasonable distribution of funds across the state and all classes of school districts; and

(vi) Provide annual reports to the Governor concerning programs funded by the fund. Each report shall include the number of applicants and approved applicants, an overview of the various programs, objectives, and anticipated outcomes, and detailed reports of the cost of each program.

To assist the council in carrying out its duties, the State Board of Education shall, in consultation with the council, adopt and promulgate rules and regulations establishing criteria, standards, and procedures regarding the selection and administration of programs funded from the Education Innovation Fund.

(3) Recipients of grants from the Education Innovation Fund shall be required to provide, upon request, such data relating to the funded programs and initiatives as the Governor deems necessary.

(4) Any money in the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund, the State Lottery Operation Cash Fund, the State Lottery Prize Trust Fund, or the Education Innovation Fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

(5) Unclaimed prize money on a winning lottery ticket shall be retained for a period of time prescribed by rules and regulations. If no claim is made within such period, the prize money shall be used at the discretion of the Tax Commissioner for any of the purposes prescribed in this section.

Sec. 2. Section 9-834, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1995, is amended to read:

9-834. (1) To enable the division to review and evaluate the competence, integrity, background, character, qualifications, and nature of the ownership and control of lottery vendors for major procurements, such vendors shall disclose the following information:

(a) The lottery vendor's name, address, and type of business entity and, as applicable, the name and address of the following:

(i) If the lottery vendor is a corporation, the officers, directors, and each stockholder in the corporation, except that in the case of stockholders of publicly held equity securities of a publicly traded corporation, only the names and addresses of those known to the corporation to own or have a beneficial interest in five ten percent or more of such securities need to be disclosed;

(ii) If the lottery vendor is a trust, the trustee and all persons entitled to receive income or benefit from the trust;

(iii) If the lottery vendor is a subsidiary, the officers, directors, and each stockholder of the parent corporation, except that in the case of stockholders of publicly held equity securities of a publicly traded corporation, only the names and addresses of those known to the corporation to own or have a beneficial interest in five ten percent or more of such securities need to be disclosed;

(iv) If the lottery vendor is a limited liability company, the members and any managers;

(v) If the lottery vendor is a partnership or joint venture, the general partners, limited partners, or joint venturers;

(vi) If the parent company, general partner, limited partner, or joint venturer of the lottery vendor is itself a corporation, trust, association, subsidiary, partnership, limited liability company, or joint venture, all the information required in subdivision (a) of this subsection shall be disclosed for such other entity as if it were itself a lottery vendor so that full disclosure of ultimate ownership is achieved;

(vii) If any parent, child, brother, sister, or spouse of the lottery vendor is involved in the vendor's business in any capacity, all of the information required in subdivision (a) of this subsection shall be disclosed for such family member as if he or she was a lottery vendor; and

(viii) If the lottery vendor subcontracts any substantial portion of the work to be performed to a subcontractor, all of the information required in subdivision (a) of this subsection shall be disclosed for each subcontractor as if it were itself a lottery vendor;

(b) The place of the lottery vendor's incorporation, if any;

(c) The name, address, and telephone number of a resident agent to contact regarding matters of the lottery vendor and for service of process;

(d) The name, address, and telephone number of each attorney and law firm representing the lottery vendor in this state;

(e) The name, address, and telephone number of each of the lottery vendor's accountants;

(f) The name, address, and telephone number of each attorney, law firm, accountant, accounting firm, public relations firm, consultant, sales agent, or other person engaged by the lottery vendor or involved in aiding the vendor's efforts to obtain the contract and the procurement involved at the time of disclosure or during the prior year;

(g) The states and jurisdictions in which the lottery vendor does business or has contracts to supply goods or services related to lottery games, and the nature of the business or the goods or services involved for each such state or jurisdiction, and the entities to which the vendor is supplying goods or services;

(h) The states and jurisdictions in which the lottery vendor has applied for, sought renewal of, received, been denied, or had revoked a gaming contract or license of any kind, and the status of such application, contract, or license in each state or jurisdiction. If any gaming contract or license has been revoked or has not been renewed or if any gaming contract or license application either has been denied or is pending and has remained pending for more than six months, all of the facts and circumstances underlying the failure to receive or retain such a contract or license shall be disclosed. For purposes of this subdivision, gaming contract or license shall mean a contract or license for the conduct of or any activity related to the operation of any lottery game or other gambling scheme;

(i) The details of any conviction or judgment of any state or federal court against the lottery vendor relating to any felony and any other criminal offense other than a traffic violation;

(j) The details of any bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, or pending litigation involving the lottery vendor;

(k) The identity of any entity with which the lottery vendor has a joint venture or other contractual agreement to supply any state or jurisdiction with goods or services related to lottery games, including, with regard to such entity, all the information requested under subdivisions (a) through (j) of this subsection;

(l) The lottery vendor's financial statements for the three years prior to disclosure and a list of all liens filed on or filed against the entity or filed on or filed against persons with a substantial interest in the entity;

(m) At the director's request, the lottery vendor's federal and state income tax returns for the three years prior to disclosure. Such information shall be considered confidential in any review in conjunction with any pending major procurement and shall not be disclosed except pursuant to appropriate judicial order;

(n) The identity and nature of any interest known to the lottery vendor of any past or present director or other employee of the division who, directly or indirectly, is an officer, director, limited liability company member, agent, consultant, independent contractor, stockholder, debt holder, principal, or employee of or who has any direct or indirect financial interest in any lottery vendor. For purposes of this subdivision, financial interest shall mean ownership of any interest or involvement in any relationship from which or as a result of which a person within the five years prior to disclosure has received, is receiving at the time of disclosure, or in the future will be entitled to receive over a five-year period more than one thousand dollars or its equivalent;

(o) The details of any contribution to or independent expenditure for a candidate for a state elective office as defined in section 49-1444 made by the lottery vendor after March 1, 1995, and within three years prior to disclosure. The lottery vendor shall be considered to have made a contribution or independent expenditure if the contribution or independent expenditure was made by the lottery vendor, by an officer of the lottery vendor, by a separate segregated political fund established by the lottery vendor as provided in section 49-1469, or by a person acting on behalf of the vendor, officer, or fund;

(p) The names, street addresses, and mailing addresses of all lobbyists representing the vendor in Nebraska, and all accounts and money managed by those lobbyists; and

~~(p)~~ (g) Such additional disclosures and information as the Tax Commissioner may determine to be appropriate for the major procurement involved.

(2) The disclosures required by subsection (1) of this section may be required only once of a lottery vendor. The vendor shall file an addendum to the original filing by August 1 of each year showing any changes from the original filing or the latest addendum.

(3) No contract shall be approved by the Tax Commissioner or signed or entered into by the director unless the lottery vendor has complied with this section. Any contract entered into with a vendor who has not complied with this section shall be void.

(4) If a contract is to be entered into as a result of competitive procurement procedures, the required disclosures, if not already on file with the director, shall be made prior to or concurrent with the submission of a bid, proposal, or offer. If the contract is entered into without a competitive procurement procedure, such disclosures shall be required prior to execution of the contract.

(5) No major procurement with any lottery vendor shall be entered into if any person with a substantial interest in the lottery vendor has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving gambling, moral turpitude, dishonesty, or theft. No major procurement with any lottery vendor shall be entered into if any person with a substantial interest in the lottery vendor has been convicted of any other felony within ten years preceding the date of submission of information required under this section. For purposes of this subsection, person with a substantial interest shall mean any sole proprietor, partner in a partnership, member or manager of a limited liability company, officer of a corporation, shareholder owning in the aggregate ten percent or more of the stock in a corporation, or governing officer of an organization or other entity.

(6) This section shall be construed broadly and liberally to achieve the end of full disclosure of all information necessary to allow for a full and complete evaluation by the director of the competence, integrity, background, character, qualifications, and nature of the ownership and control of lottery vendors for major procurements.

Sec. 3. Original sections 9-812 and 9-834, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1995, are repealed.