



95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

HB4868

by Rep. Dennis M. Reboletti

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 1605/21.6
20 ILCS 2805/4

from Ch. 126 1/2, par. 69

Amends the Illinois Lottery Law. Provides that the Department of Revenue or any successor in interest shall offer a special instant scratch-off game for the benefit of Illinois veterans. Provides that tickets for the game shall be distributed year-round and shall be available in in all instant ticket dispensing machines controlled by the Department or any successor in interest. Provides that the Department of Veterans Affairs shall approve the ticket design for the game. Sets forth criteria for the ticket design. Amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. Provides that a veterans' service officer (instead of a service officer) shall be assigned to each field office. Sets forth the functions and qualifications for veterans' service officers. Provides that the Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall appoint a Chief Veterans' Service Officer. Sets forth the duties of the Chief Veterans' Service Officer.

LRB095 14927 HLH 40872 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Lottery Law is amended by changing
5 Section 21.6 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 1605/21.6)

7 Sec. 21.6. Scratch-off for Illinois veterans.

8 (a) The Department, or any successor in interest, shall
9 offer a special instant scratch-off game for the benefit of
10 Illinois veterans. The game shall commence on January 1, 2006
11 or as soon thereafter, at the discretion of the Director, as is
12 reasonably practical. The operation of the game shall be
13 governed by this Act and any rules adopted by the Department.
14 If any provision of this Section is inconsistent with any other
15 provision of this Act, then this Section governs. The
16 Department, or any successor in interest, shall operate the
17 game so that tickets are fully available and distributed to
18 agents year-round. Tickets shall be available in all instant
19 ticket dispensing machines controlled by the Department or any
20 successor in interest.

21 The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs shall approve
22 the ticket design for the special instant scratch-off game. The
23 ticket design shall emphasize patriotic themes and achieve

1 design continuity and familiarity for ticket purchasers. The
2 Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to
3 communicate directly with Lottery agents to promote the special
4 game, and that communication shall be facilitated by the
5 Department of Revenue. Any cost related to such communication
6 shall be included as an administrative expense in calculating
7 net revenue under subsection (b).

8 (b) The Illinois Veterans Assistance Fund is created as a
9 special fund in the State treasury. The net revenue from the
10 Illinois veterans scratch-off game shall be deposited into the
11 Fund for appropriation by the General Assembly solely to the
12 Department of Veterans Affairs for making grants, funding
13 additional services, or conducting additional research
14 projects relating to each of the following:

15 (i) veterans' post traumatic stress disorder;

16 (ii) veterans' homelessness;

17 (iii) the health insurance costs of veterans;

18 (iv) veterans' disability benefits, including but not
19 limited to, disability benefits provided by veterans
20 service organizations and veterans assistance commissions
21 or centers; and

22 (v) the long-term care of veterans; provided that,
23 beginning with moneys appropriated for fiscal year 2008, no
24 more than 20% of such moneys shall be used for health
25 insurance costs.

26 In order to expend moneys from this special fund,

1 beginning with moneys appropriated for fiscal year 2008,
2 the Director of Veterans' Affairs shall appoint a 3-member
3 funding authorization committee. The Director shall
4 designate one of the members as chairperson. The committee
5 shall meet on a quarterly basis, at a minimum, and shall
6 authorize expenditure of moneys from the special fund by a
7 two-thirds vote. Decisions of the committee shall not take
8 effect unless and until approved by the Director of
9 Veterans' Affairs. Each member of the committee shall serve
10 until a replacement is named by the Director of Veterans'
11 Affairs. One member of the committee shall be a member of
12 the Veterans' Advisory Council.

13 Moneys collected from the special instant scratch-off game
14 shall be used only as a supplemental financial resource and
15 shall not supplant existing moneys that the Department of
16 Veterans Affairs may currently expend for the purposes set
17 forth in items (i) through (v).

18 Moneys received for the purposes of this Section,
19 including, without limitation, net revenue from the special
20 instant scratch-off game and from gifts, grants, and awards
21 from any public or private entity, must be deposited into the
22 Fund. Any interest earned on moneys in the Fund must be
23 deposited into the Fund.

24 For purposes of this subsection, "net revenue" means the
25 total amount for which tickets have been sold less the sum of
26 the amount paid out in the prizes and the actual administrative

1 expenses of the Department solely related to the scratch-off
2 game under this Section.

3 (c) During the time that tickets are sold for the Illinois
4 veterans scratch-off game, the Department shall not
5 ~~unreasonably~~ diminish the efforts devoted to marketing and
6 distributing the ~~any other instant scratch-off lottery~~ game.

7 (d) The Department may adopt any rules necessary to
8 implement and administer the provisions of this Section.

9 (Source: P.A. 94-585, eff. 8-15-05; 95-331, eff. 8-20-07;
10 95-649, eff. 10-11-07.)

11 Section 10. The Department of Veterans Affairs Act is
12 amended by changing Section 4 as follows:

13 (20 ILCS 2805/4) (from Ch. 126 1/2, par. 69)

14 Sec. 4. Veterans' service officers.

15 (a) A veterans' service officer shall be assigned to each
16 field office. He must be an honorably discharged veteran from
17 service in the Armed Forces of the United States. He must have
18 served during a time of hostilities with a foreign country, and
19 must meet one or more of the following conditions:

20 (i) The veteran served a total of at least 6 months.

21 (ii) The veteran served for the duration of hostilities
22 regardless of the length of engagement.

23 (iii) The veteran was discharged on the basis of
24 hardship.

1 (iv) The veteran was released from active duty because
2 of a service connected disability and was discharged under
3 honorable conditions.

4 As used in this Section, "time of hostilities with a
5 foreign country" means any period of time in the past, present,
6 or future during which a declaration of war by the United
7 States Congress has been or is in effect or during which an
8 emergency condition has been or is in effect that is recognized
9 by the issuance of a Presidential proclamation or a
10 Presidential executive order and in which the armed forces
11 expeditionary medal or other campaign service medals are
12 awarded according to Presidential executive order.

13 (b) The duties of veterans' service officers shall include:

14 (1) assisting veterans and their families in working
15 with federal, State, and local agencies that administer
16 programs for veterans;

17 (2) assisting veterans in maximizing State and federal
18 benefits that may be available to them;

19 (3) streamlining the benefit application and awareness
20 process;

21 (4) coordinating community outreach to promote
22 veterans assistance programs;

23 (5) promoting the use of veterans advocates in the
24 State and serving as a link between veterans, veterans
25 advocates, and the Department; and

26 (6) recommending improvements in outreach methods,

1 programs, and training.

2 Subject to appropriation, the Director of Veterans Affairs
3 shall appoint a Chief Veterans' Service Officer who shall serve
4 at the pleasure of the Director and who shall coordinate the
5 duties and activities of all veterans' service officers
6 assigned to field offices. The Chief Veterans' Service Officer
7 shall also advise senior Department staff regarding the duties
8 and activities of veterans' service officers.

9 (Source: P.A. 88-275.)