

House Bill No. 2011

An act relating to the lottery; amending s. 24.121, F.S.; providing rules for the allocation of lottery revenues and expenditure of funds for public education; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 24.121, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

24.121 Allocation of revenues and expenditure of funds for public education.—

(1) As nearly as practical, at least 50 percent of the gross revenue from the sale of on-line lottery tickets and variable percentages, as determined by the department, of the gross revenue from the sale of instant lottery tickets shall be returned to the public in the form of prizes paid by the department or retailers as authorized by this act. The variable percentages of gross revenue from the sale of instant tickets returned to the public in the form of prizes shall be established by the department in a manner designed to maximize the amount of funds deposited under subsection (2).

(2) Each fiscal year, at least 38 percent of the gross revenue from the sale of on-line lottery tickets, variable percentages of the gross revenue from the sale of instant lottery tickets as determined by the department consistent with subsection (1), and other earned revenue, excluding application processing fees, shall be deposited in the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund, which is hereby created in the State Treasury to be administered by the Department of Education. The Department of the Lottery shall transfer moneys to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund at least once each quarter. Funds in the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund shall be used to the benefit of public education in accordance with the provisions of this act. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a maximum of \$180 million of lottery revenues transferred to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund in fiscal year 1997-1998 and for 30 years thereafter shall be reserved as needed and used to meet the requirements of the documents authorizing the bonds issued by the state pursuant to s. 235.187 or s. 235.2195 or distributed to school districts for the Classrooms First Program as provided in s. 235.187. Such lottery revenues are hereby pledged to the payment of debt service on bonds issued by the state pursuant to s. 235.187 or s. 235.2195. Debt service payable on bonds issued by the state pursuant to s. 235.187 or s. 235.2195 shall be payable from the first lottery revenues transferred to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund in each fiscal year. Amounts distributable to school districts that request the issuance of bonds pursuant to s. 235.187(3) are hereby pledged to such bonds pursuant to s. 11(d), Art. VII of the State Constitution. The amounts distributed through the Classrooms First Program shall equal \$145 million in each fiscal year. These funds are intended to provide up to \$2.5 billion for public school facilities.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

Approved by the Governor May 1, 2002.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 1, 2002.