



December 13, 2016

Gambling Alert - Lottery Investigation



Lottery Investigation - 40% of largest instant game prizes not awarded

The *Chicago Tribune* conducted an extensive investigation of the Illinois Lottery. They found the Lottery collected hundreds of millions of dollars from selling instant game tickets where it did not hand out all of the grand prizes--sometimes awarding no grand prizes before ending the game.

The Good Life, offered \$46 million in installments to two winners. At \$30, tickets weren't cheap, but millions were sold. Then the game ended before the lottery sold most of the tickets that were printed, with neither top prize awarded. [Read more](#)

The newspaper investigated 17 games with the largest payouts from 2011, when private lottery manager Northstar Lottery Group took over, until June 2015.

Northstar boosted the number of printed tickets, allowing them to offer bigger prizes. Suppliers and the state received more profit. But as sales of big-payout tickets dipped, Northstar pushed to remove tickets from stores, often before grand prizes were awarded. [Read more](#)

Now, state lawmakers from both political parties are calling for an investigation into the Illinois Lottery managed scratch-off games in response to the Tribune report showing the lottery did not award many of the biggest prizes in the biggest games. [Read more](#)

What is surprising is two of the Legislators who are calling for the investigation-Rep. Lou Lang and Sen. Terry Link. Rep. Lang formerly chaired the House Gaming Committee and sponsored many gambling bills. Sen. Link has sponsored many gambling bills, including massive casino gambling bills.

While the General Assembly was unable to pass a budget, they did manage to approve a bill to extend the deadline for instant ticket "Ticket for the Cure" for 10 more years (**SB 586**).

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. Illinois was the first state to hire a private management company to operate a Lottery. How is that working out? Contact your [State Representative](#) and [State Senator](#) to voice your concerns. A new private management company could expand the lottery by selling instant lottery tickets online and marketing the Lottery more aggressively, especially to young people. Ask your Legislators to OPPOSE making the Internet Lottery permanent.
2. Contact the [governor](#) and ask him to **VETO SB 586**.

3. Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to call and pray.
4. Forward to 10 others.

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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems,
1132 West Jefferson, Springfield, IL 62702

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