

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

—
H.P. 1410 - L.D. 2095

An Act to Prohibit Bulk Purchasing of Tickets in Certain Lottery Games

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, there has been a rise in lottery ticket bulk purchasing activities across the country and internationally; and

Whereas, bulk purchasing activities threaten the integrity of the lottery, undermine fairness for the public player and run contrary to the legislative intent of the lottery authorized by voters in 1973; and

Whereas, bulk purchasing activities should therefore be prohibited as soon as possible; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §374, sub-§1, ¶L, as amended by PL 1997, c. 301, §1, is further amended to read:

L. The apportionment of the total annual revenue accruing from the sale of lottery tickets or shares and from all other sources for the payment of prizes to the holders of winning tickets or shares; for the payment of costs incurred in the operation and administration of the lotteries, including the expenses of the commission and the costs resulting from any contract or contracts entered into for promotional, advertising, consulting or operational services or for the purchase or lease of lottery equipment and materials; for the repayment of the money appropriated to the State Lottery Fund; and for transfer to the General Fund for distribution pursuant to section 387; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §374, sub-§1, ¶M, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 301, §2, is amended to read:

M. The imprinting on all lottery tickets sold in the State of the overall odds of winning a prize for each game;

Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §374, sub-§1, ¶N is enacted to read:

N. The quantity of tickets or shares that may be sold to a person by an agent; and

Sec. 4. 8 MRSA §374, sub-§1, ¶O is enacted to read:

O. The bulk purchase of tickets or shares as prohibited pursuant to section 381-A.

Sec. 5. 8 MRSA §376, sub-§1, ¶E, as amended by PL 2011, c. 310, §10, is further amended to read:

E. Insufficiency of the number of tickets sold by a person licensed to sell lottery tickets or shares; or

Sec. 6. 8 MRSA §376, sub-§1, ¶F, as amended by PL 2011, c. 310, §10, is further amended to read:

F. A material change, since issuance of the license, with respect to any of the matters required to be considered by the director under section 375 or as defined by rules adopted under this chapter; or

Sec. 7. 8 MRSA §376, sub-§1, ¶G is enacted to read:

G. Knowingly selling tickets or shares to a person attempting to make a bulk purchase in violation of section 381-A or any rules adopted to implement section 381-A.

Sec. 8. 8 MRSA §381-A is enacted to read:

§381-A. Bulk purchase of tickets or shares prohibited

1. Bulk purchase; definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "bulk purchase" means the purchase, in aggregate, of tickets or shares in a lottery game in an amount exceeding \$25,000 that:

A. Occurs in a single transaction or multiple transactions;

B. Is made at a single retail location or multiple retail locations; and

C. Is made by an individual or multiple individuals acting in concert.

2. Bulk purchases prohibited. The bulk purchase of tickets or shares for a lottery game is prohibited.

3. Refusal of payment. The commission may refuse payment of a prize for a winning ticket or share that was purchased as part of a bulk purchase in violation of subsection 2.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.