

## Amendment of LD 948

### "An Act To Support Boys and Girls Clubs through Lottery Revenue"

**Background:** LD948 would create a lottery game designed to raise funds for Boys & Girls Clubs in the state of Maine. Boys & Girls Clubs are very supportive of this legislation as it would create a dedicated funding source for Clubs to increase services and programs for at-risk youth.

Boys & Girls Clubs have 17 sites that serve more than 21,000 youth aged 5-18 across the state. Clubs believe in positive youth development, caring mentors and a safe space for kids to achieve positive outcomes in areas such as academic success, leadership, community service, and healthy lifestyles.

**Amendment Proposal:** While we recognize the opposition to LD948 and the desire to not create a new game, we are hopeful that a compromise could be made to specifically support kids in Maine. As part of a national network, Boys & Girls Clubs have access to examples in other states where similar programs may be implemented. The Tennessee Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs successfully partners with their Department of Education to implement the Lottery for Education Afterschool Program (LEAP). Details of this program are provided below:

- In Tennessee, the General Assembly established that profits from the lottery go towards specific educational programs such as: college scholarships, early childhood programs and afterschool programs.
- In accordance with [TCA Title 4, Chapter 6, Part 7](#), 100 percent of monies constituting an unclaimed prize shall be deposited into an afterschool account for the purpose of administering a system of competitive grants and technical assistance for eligible organizations providing afterschool educational programs within Tennessee.
- The program effectively became known as LEAP is a complementary to school curricula that allows out-of-school time (OST) providers to provide high-quality services in core academic areas such as reading, math and science skill development and enhancement. It also allows OST providers to offer enrichment and support activities in areas such as health and nutrition, technology, sports and recreation.
- Within the LEAP program, there are specific requirements that organizations must meet in order to qualify for funding and demonstrate measurable outcomes after the funding is received. A full overview of the program can be found [here](#).
- Because Tennessee allows out-of-school time providers to be eligible for funding through the lottery, the over \$1M that the Boys & Girls Clubs receive in Tennessee allow them to reach more kids, provide services that support academics, mentoring and other enrichment programs.

#### Maine Unclaimed Lottery Prizes:

The State Lottery Fund currently appropriates money:

- For the payment of winning lottery tickets or shares

- For the expense of the division in its operation of the lottery
- For payment to the General Fund; and
- [For payment to the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund](#)

[Any unclaimed prize money](#) of a winning ticket or share must be retained for one year after the drawing in which the prize was won. If no claim is made for the money within that year, the prize money must be transferred to the General Fund as undedicated revenue.

For any unclaimed prize money for a game in which there is no drawing, the money must be retained by the director for a reasonable period of time and may be transferred to the General Fund if the director determines that adequate funds have been retained to pay anticipated delayed claims.

Through our review of the [Department of Administrative and Financial Services Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations Enterprise Lottery Fund Comparative Statements of Income and Expense for YE June 30, 2019](#) the State Lottery Fund had \$2.8M in expired Instant Prize Reserve that we assume was contributed to General Fund. In 2018, expired Instant Prize Reserve totaled \$2.3M. We would need confirmation from the Department if these amounts were unclaimed prizes that were returned to the general fund.