

Chapter 15

2021 Regular Session

Subject Lottery prize winner name made private

Bill H.F. 832

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Overview

States have sought to balance the policy goals of protecting the privacy of lottery winners and providing transparency in the process so that the public has trust that lotteries are fair. In the majority of states, the name of a lottery winner is made public. However, an increasing number of states are permitting at least some winners to remain private. For example, Georgia passed a law in 2018 that allows individuals who win more than \$250,000 to stay anonymous and Arizona passed a similar law in 2019 that established a threshold of \$100,000. Currently, Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, and Texas allow at least some winners to remain anonymous. Other states, including Colorado, Vermont, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, allow winners to establish a trust and publicize only the name of the trust. This act would classify the name of a lottery winner as private data on individuals, allowing the winners to remain anonymous.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Privacy.
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	Adds the name of a winner of a lottery prize that includes a cash payment greater than \$10,000 and the name of a winner of a second chance drawing prize that includes a cash payment greater than \$10,000 to the list of information that is private data on individuals, meaning it is not public but is accessible by the person. Provides that the name may be made public if the winner provides written consent after being informed of the intended use of the person's name.
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