

Preamble

WHEREAS, Current law implies that a winner of a State lottery drawing must claim a prize within 180 days after the drawing in which the prize is won, but does not state that requirement explicitly, and

WHEREAS, The calculation of the deadline using 180 days has resulted in at least one lottery prize claimant being denied payment of the prize as a result of miscalculation of the deadline, and

WHEREAS, Changing the period for claiming a prize from 180 days to 6 months would make it easier for a prize winner to calculate the deadline for claiming a prize and would not unduly burden the State Lottery Agency, now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - State Government

9-122.

(e) (1) A PRIZE WINNER SHALL CLAIM A PRIZE WITHIN 6 MONTHS ~~185~~ 182 DAYS AFTER THE DRAWING IN WHICH THE PRIZE IS WON.

[(1)] (2) Except as provided in paragraph [(2)] (3) of this subsection, the Director shall keep an unclaimed prize:

(i) for [180 days] 6 MONTHS ~~185~~ 182 DAYS after the drawing in which the prize is won, for payment of the winner; and

(ii) then IN AN UNCLAIMED PRIZE FUND for use for other prizes.

[(2)] (3) For a game that the Agency designates as a bonus game or drawing and that is not a daily or weekly State lottery drawing, the period for claiming a prize may differ from the period set in paragraph [(1)] (2) of this subsection.

(f) Unless otherwise specifically provided by the laws of the State, the State and every officer, department, agency, board, commission, or other unit of State government may not raise the defense of sovereign immunity in the courts of the State in an action in contract brought by an annuitant OR PRIZE WINNER that is based on the liability of the State to pay an annuitant OR PRIZE WINNER the prize that the annuitant is entitled to receive in accordance with this subtitle and any regulations adopted under this subtitle.