

[(d)](E) On payment of a prize in accordance with this section, the Director is discharged of all liability.

[(e)](F) (1) A prize winner shall claim a prize within 182 days after the drawing in which the prize is won.

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

(i) for 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.

(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 (2) of this subsection.

[(f)](G) 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.

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(C) (1) A LICENSED AGENT MAY NOT FAIL TO REPORT, AS REQUIRED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OR THE AGENCY, INCOME TAX INFORMATION RELATING TO HOLDERS OF WINNING LOTTERY TICKETS.

(2) FOR PRIZES OF OVER \$600, A LICENSED AGENT MAY NOT FAIL TO DETERMINE, THROUGH THE AGENCY AND PRIOR TO PAYING THE PRIZE, WHETHER A HOLDER OF A WINNING LOTTERY TICKET HAS BEEN CERTIFIED UNDER:

(I) ARTICLE 27, § 640A(B) OF THE CODE; OR

(II) § 10-113.1(A) OF THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE.

(3) A LICENSED AGENT MAY NOT PAY A PRIZE TO A HOLDER OF A WINNING LOTTERY TICKET IF THE AGENCY HAS NOTIFIED THE LICENSED AGENT THAT THE HOLDER HAS BEEN CERTIFIED UNDER:

(I) ARTICLE 27, § 640A(B) OF THE CODE; OR

(II) § 10-113.1 OF THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE.

[(c)](D) A person who violates any provision of subsection (b) OR (C) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or both.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October 1, 1996~~ July 1, 1997.