

(ii) a guardian of the minor.

(3) If a minor wins \$5,000 or more, the Director may deposit the prize in a bank to the credit of 1 of the following, as custodian for the minor:

(i) an adult member of the minor's family; or

(ii) a guardian of the minor.

(4) A custodian under paragraph (3) of this subsection has the same powers and duties as a custodian under the Maryland Uniform Transfers to Minors Act.

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

(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.

(g) (1) Unless otherwise specifically provided by the laws of the State, AND EXCEPT FOR PRIZES PAID FOR ANY MULTISTATE LOTTERY GAME, 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.

(2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, THE STATE MAY RAISE THE DEFENSE OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY TO A CONTRACT ACTION BROUGHT BY AN ANNUITANT OR PRIZE WINNER OF ANY MULTISTATE LOTTERY GAME, FOR ANY CLAIM THAT EXCEEDS \$200,000.

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

Approved May 8, 1997.