

Senate Bill 155

By: Senators Harbison of the 15th, McKoon of the 29th, Dugan of the 30th, Jeffares of the 17th and Rhett of the 33rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 27 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 lottery for education, so as to provide a short title; to provide that the Georgia Lottery
3 Corporation shall offer one or more games to benefit veterans; to provide for the deposit of
4 proceeds into the general fund; to provide for a special account to be appropriated for
5 veterans' programs; to provide for purposes for which appropriations shall be made; to
6 provide for lapsing of funds; to provide a conditional effective date and automatic repeal; to
7 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 27 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to lottery for
11 education, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

12 style="text-align:center">"ARTICLE 4

13 50-27-120.

14 This article shall be known and may be cited as the 'Georgia Lottery for Veterans.'

15 50-27-121.

16 The corporation shall offer one or more special instant scratch-off games for the benefit of
17 Georgia veterans. The game shall commence on January 1, 2017, or as soon thereafter as
18 is reasonably practical. The operation of the game shall be governed by Article 1 of this
19 chapter. If any provision of this article is inconsistent with any other provision of this
20 chapter, then this article shall govern.

21 50-27-122.

22 On or before the fifteenth day of each quarter, the corporation shall transfer to the general
23 fund of the state treasury, for credit to the Lottery for Veterans Account for the preceding
24 quarter, the amount of all net proceeds during the preceding quarter from the special instant
25 scratch-off game for the benefit of Georgia veterans. The state treasurer shall separately
26 account for net proceeds by establishing and maintaining a Lottery for Veterans Account
27 within the state treasury.

28 50-27-123.

29 Upon their deposit into the state treasury, any moneys representing a deposit of net
30 proceeds shall then become the unencumbered property of the State of Georgia and the
31 corporation shall have no power to agree or undertake otherwise. Such moneys shall be
32 invested by the state treasurer in accordance with state investment practices. All earnings
33 attributable to such investments shall likewise be the unencumbered property of the state
34 and shall accrue to the credit of the Lottery for Veterans Account.

35 50-27-124.

36 (a) In the budget report to the General Assembly, as a separate budget category entitled
37 'lottery for veterans proceeds,' the Governor shall estimate the amount of net proceeds and
38 treasury earnings thereon to be credited to the Lottery for Veterans Account during the
39 fiscal year and the amount of unappropriated surplus estimated to be accrued in the account
40 at the beginning of the fiscal year. The sum of estimated net proceeds, treasury earnings
41 thereon, and unappropriated surplus shall be designated 'lottery for veterans proceeds.'

42 (b) In the budget report, the Governor shall further make specific recommendations as to
43 the programs and purposes for which appropriations should be made from the Lottery for
44 Veterans Account. The General Assembly shall appropriate from the Lottery for Veterans
45 Account by specific reference to it, or by reference to 'lottery for veterans proceeds.' All
46 appropriations of lottery for veterans proceeds to any particular budget unit shall be made
47 together in a separate part entitled, identified, administered, and accounted for separately
48 as a distinct budget unit for lottery for veterans proceeds. Such appropriations shall
49 otherwise be made in the manner required by law for appropriations. Such appropriations
50 shall be made for one or more of the following:

51 (1) Veterans' post traumatic stress disorder;

52 (2) Veterans' homelessness;

53 (3) The health insurance costs of veterans;

54 (4) Veterans' disability benefits, including, but not limited to, disability benefits provided
55 by veterans service organizations and veterans assistance commissions or centers;

56 (5) The long-term care of veterans; and

57 (6) Veteran employment and employment training.

58 50-27-125.

59 Appropriations for veterans' programs from the account not committed during the fiscal
60 year shall lapse to the general fund and shall be credited to the Lottery for Veterans
61 Account.

62 50-27-126.

63 Except as provided by this article, appropriations from the Lottery for Veterans Account
64 shall be subject to Part 1 of Article 4 of Chapter 12 of Title 45, the 'Budget Act.'"

65 **SECTION 2.**

66 This Act shall become effective only if an amendment to the Constitution of Georgia is
67 ratified at the time of the general election held in 2016 authorizing the expenditure of lottery
68 funds for the benefit of veterans' programs. Otherwise, this Act shall stand automatically
69 repealed on December 31, 2016.

70 **SECTION 3.**

71 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.