

COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill: Senate Bill 1017

Printer's No.: 1228

Sponsor: Senator Boscola

Prepared by: Gregg Warner

Synopsis: This bill amends the Judicial Code, Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, to add a section authorizing the interception of lottery winnings to pay restitution.

Summary: New section 9778 provides that in the case of any person winning more than \$2,500 in the Pennsylvania State Lottery, prior to making any lottery winnings payment the Department of Revenue shall request the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts to make all reasonable efforts to determine if the person owes any restitution as a result of a criminal conviction in Pennsylvania.

Payment

If the person is found to owe any restitution, the amount shall be deducted from the amount of lottery winnings and paid in the manner provided by law for the administration of payments of court fines, fees and costs.

Review

A person whose lottery prize is used to satisfy an obligation under this section may appeal to the Department of Revenue.

Regulations

The Department of Revenue and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts shall jointly promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to carry out this section.

Effective date

This act takes effect in 60 days.

Background: Senate Bill 1017 is based on Recommendation 46 in the “Restitution in Pennsylvania Task Force Final Report” issued in February 2013. The Restitution in Pennsylvania Task Force was convened by the Pennsylvania Office of the Victim Advocate in collaboration with the Center for Schools and Communities. The purpose of the task force was to find ways to maximize payments to crime victims for financial losses.

Recommendation 46 states: “The General Assembly should consider enacting or amending statute to require the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue and Pennsylvania Lottery to pay any state judicial debt to include overdue restitution, costs and/or fines from any state income tax refunds and/or lottery winnings.”