

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Lottery Law is amended by changing  
5 Section 21.6 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 1605/21.6)

7 Sec. 21.6. Scratch-off for Illinois veterans.

8 (a) The Department, or any successor in interest, shall  
9 offer a special instant scratch-off game for the benefit of  
10 Illinois veterans. The game shall commence on January 1, 2006  
11 or as soon thereafter, at the discretion of the Director, as is  
12 reasonably practical. The operation of the game shall be  
13 governed by this Act and any rules adopted by the Department.  
14 If any provision of this Section is inconsistent with any other  
15 provision of this Act, then this Section governs. The  
16 Department, or any successor in interest, shall operate the  
17 game so that tickets are fully available and distributed to  
18 agents year-round. Tickets shall be available in all instant  
19 ticket dispensing machines controlled by the Department or any  
20 successor in interest.

21 The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs shall approve  
22 the ticket design for the special instant scratch-off game. The  
23 ticket design shall emphasize patriotic themes and achieve

1 design continuity and familiarity for ticket purchasers. The  
2 Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to  
3 communicate directly with Lottery agents to promote the special  
4 game, and that communication shall be facilitated by the  
5 Department of Revenue. Any cost related to such communication  
6 shall be included as an administrative expense in calculating  
7 net revenue under subsection (b). Notwithstanding any other  
8 rulemaking authority that may exist, neither the Governor nor  
9 any agency or agency head under the jurisdiction of the  
10 Governor has any authority to make or promulgate rules to  
11 implement or enforce the provisions of this amendatory Act of  
12 the 95th General Assembly. If, however, the Governor believes  
13 that rules are necessary to implement or enforce the provisions  
14 of this amendatory Act of the 95th General Assembly, the  
15 Governor may suggest rules to the General Assembly by filing  
16 them with the Clerk of the House and Secretary of the Senate  
17 and by requesting that the General Assembly authorize such  
18 rulemaking by law, enact those suggested rules into law, or  
19 take any other appropriate action in the General Assembly's  
20 discretion. Nothing contained in this amendatory Act of the  
21 95th General Assembly shall be interpreted to grant rulemaking  
22 authority under any other Illinois statute where such authority  
23 is not otherwise explicitly given. For the purposes of this  
24 amendatory Act of the 95th General Assembly, "rules" is given  
25 the meaning contained in Section 1-70 of the Illinois  
26 Administrative Procedure Act, and "agency" and "agency head"

1 are given the meanings contained in Sections 1-20 and 1-25 of  
2 the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act to the extent that  
3 such definitions apply to agencies or agency heads under the  
4 jurisdiction of the Governor.

5 (b) The Illinois Veterans Assistance Fund is created as a  
6 special fund in the State treasury. The net revenue from the  
7 Illinois veterans scratch-off game shall be deposited into the  
8 Fund for appropriation by the General Assembly solely to the  
9 Department of Veterans Affairs for making grants, funding  
10 additional services, or conducting additional research  
11 projects relating to each of the following:

12 (i) veterans' post traumatic stress disorder;

13 (ii) veterans' homelessness;

14 (iii) the health insurance costs of veterans;

15 (iv) veterans' disability benefits, including but not  
16 limited to, disability benefits provided by veterans  
17 service organizations and veterans assistance commissions  
18 or centers; and

19 (v) the long-term care of veterans; provided that,  
20 beginning with moneys appropriated for fiscal year 2008, no  
21 more than 20% of such moneys shall be used for health  
22 insurance costs.

23 In order to expend moneys from this special fund,  
24 beginning with moneys appropriated for fiscal year 2008,  
25 the Director of Veterans' Affairs shall appoint a 3-member  
26 funding authorization committee. The Director shall

1 designate one of the members as chairperson. The committee  
2 shall meet on a quarterly basis, at a minimum, and shall  
3 authorize expenditure of moneys from the special fund by a  
4 two-thirds vote. Decisions of the committee shall not take  
5 effect unless and until approved by the Director of  
6 Veterans' Affairs. Each member of the committee shall serve  
7 until a replacement is named by the Director of Veterans'  
8 Affairs. One member of the committee shall be a member of  
9 the Veterans' Advisory Council.

10 Moneys collected from the special instant scratch-off game  
11 shall be used only as a supplemental financial resource and  
12 shall not supplant existing moneys that the Department of  
13 Veterans Affairs may currently expend for the purposes set  
14 forth in items (i) through (v).

15 Moneys received for the purposes of this Section,  
16 including, without limitation, net revenue from the special  
17 instant scratch-off game and from gifts, grants, and awards  
18 from any public or private entity, must be deposited into the  
19 Fund. Any interest earned on moneys in the Fund must be  
20 deposited into the Fund.

21 For purposes of this subsection, "net revenue" means the  
22 total amount for which tickets have been sold less the sum of  
23 the amount paid out in the prizes and the actual administrative  
24 expenses of the Department solely related to the scratch-off  
25 game under this Section.

26 (c) During the time that tickets are sold for the Illinois

1 veterans scratch-off game, the Department shall not  
2 ~~unreasonably~~ diminish the efforts devoted to marketing and  
3 distributing the ~~any other instant scratch-off lottery~~ game.

4 (d) The Department may adopt any rules necessary to  
5 implement and administer the provisions of this Section.

6 (Source: P.A. 94-585, eff. 8-15-05; 95-331, eff. 8-20-07;  
7 95-649, eff. 10-11-07.)

8 Section 10. The Department of Veterans Affairs Act is  
9 amended by changing Section 4 as follows:

10 (20 ILCS 2805/4) (from Ch. 126 1/2, par. 69)

11 Sec. 4. Veterans' service officers.

12 (a) A veterans' service officer shall be assigned to each  
13 field office. He must be an honorably discharged veteran from  
14 service in the Armed Forces of the United States. He must have  
15 served during a time of hostilities with a foreign country, and  
16 must meet one or more of the following conditions:

17 (i) The veteran served a total of at least 6 months.

18 (ii) The veteran served for the duration of hostilities  
19 regardless of the length of engagement.

20 (iii) The veteran was discharged on the basis of  
21 hardship.

22 (iv) The veteran was released from active duty because  
23 of a service connected disability and was discharged under  
24 honorable conditions.

1           As used in this Section, "time of hostilities with a  
2 foreign country" means any period of time in the past, present,  
3 or future during which a declaration of war by the United  
4 States Congress has been or is in effect or during which an  
5 emergency condition has been or is in effect that is recognized  
6 by the issuance of a Presidential proclamation or a  
7 Presidential executive order and in which the armed forces  
8 expeditionary medal or other campaign service medals are  
9 awarded according to Presidential executive order.

10           (b) The duties of veterans' service officers shall include:

11           (1) assisting veterans and their families in working  
12 with federal, State, and local agencies that administer  
13 programs for veterans;

14           (2) assisting veterans in maximizing State and federal  
15 benefits that may be available to them;

16           (3) streamlining the benefit application and awareness  
17 process;

18           (4) coordinating community outreach to promote  
19 veterans assistance programs;

20           (5) promoting the use of veterans advocates in the  
21 State and serving as a link between veterans, veterans  
22 advocates, and the Department; and

23           (6) recommending improvements in outreach methods,  
24 programs, and training.

25           Subject to appropriation, the Director of Veterans Affairs  
26 shall appoint a Chief Veterans' Service Officer who shall serve

1 at the pleasure of the Director and who shall coordinate the  
2 duties and activities of all veterans' service officers  
3 assigned to field offices. The Chief Veterans' Service Officer  
4 shall also advise senior Department staff regarding the duties  
5 and activities of veterans' service officers.

6 Notwithstanding any other rulemaking authority that may  
7 exist, neither the Governor nor any agency or agency head under  
8 the jurisdiction of the Governor has any authority to make or  
9 promulgate rules to implement or enforce the provisions of this  
10 amendatory Act of the 95th General Assembly. If, however, the  
11 Governor believes that rules are necessary to implement or  
12 enforce the provisions of this amendatory Act of the 95th  
13 General Assembly, the Governor may suggest rules to the General  
14 Assembly by filing them with the Clerk of the House and  
15 Secretary of the Senate and by requesting that the General  
16 Assembly authorize such rulemaking by law, enact those  
17 suggested rules into law, or take any other appropriate action  
18 in the General Assembly's discretion. Nothing contained in this  
19 amendatory Act of the 95th General Assembly shall be  
20 interpreted to grant rulemaking authority under any other  
21 Illinois statute where such authority is not otherwise  
22 explicitly given. For the purposes of this amendatory Act of  
23 the 95th General Assembly, "rules" is given the meaning  
24 contained in Section 1-70 of the Illinois Administrative  
25 Procedure Act, and "agency" and "agency head" are given the  
26 meanings contained in Sections 1-20 and 1-25 of the Illinois

1 Administrative Procedure Act to the extent that such  
2 definitions apply to agencies or agency heads under the  
3 jurisdiction of the Governor.

4 (Source: P.A. 88-275.)