

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 shall offer a special instant
9 scratch-off game for the benefit of Illinois veterans. The
10 game shall commence on January 1, 2006 or as soon thereafter,
11 at the discretion of the Director, as is reasonably practical.
12 The operation of the game shall be governed by this Act and any
13 rules adopted by the Department.

14 (b) The Illinois Veterans Assistance Fund is created as a
15 special fund in the State treasury. The net revenue from the
16 Illinois veterans scratch-off game shall be deposited into the
17 Fund for appropriation by the General Assembly solely to the
18 Department of Veterans Affairs for making grants, funding
19 additional services, or conducting additional research
20 projects relating to each of the following:

21 (i) veterans' behavioral health services;

22 (ii) veterans' homelessness;

23 (iii) the health insurance costs of veterans;

1 (iv) veterans' disability benefits, including but not
2 limited to, disability benefits provided by veterans
3 service organizations and veterans assistance commissions
4 or centers;

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

9 (vi) veteran employment and employment training; and

10 (vii) veterans' emergency financial assistance,
11 including, but not limited to, past due utilities,
12 housing, and transportation costs.

13 In order to expend moneys from this special fund,
14 beginning with moneys appropriated for fiscal year 2008, the
15 Director of Veterans Affairs shall appoint a 3-member funding
16 authorization committee. The Director shall designate one of
17 the members as chairperson. The committee shall meet twice a
18 year ~~on a quarterly basis~~, at a minimum, and shall authorize
19 expenditure of moneys from the special fund by a two-thirds
20 vote. Decisions of the committee shall not take effect unless
21 and until approved by the Director of Veterans Affairs. Each
22 member of the committee shall serve until a replacement is
23 named by the Director of Veterans Affairs. One member of the
24 committee shall be a member of the Veterans' Advisory Council.

25 Moneys collected from the special instant scratch-off game
26 shall be used only as a supplemental financial resource and

1 shall not supplant existing moneys that the Department of
2 Veterans Affairs may currently expend for the purposes set
3 forth in items (i) through (v).

4 Moneys received for the purposes of this Section,
5 including, without limitation, net revenue from the special
6 instant scratch-off game and from gifts, grants, and awards
7 from any public or private entity, must be deposited into the
8 Fund. Any interest earned on moneys in the Fund must be
9 deposited into the Fund.

10 As used in this subsection, "net revenue" means the total
11 amount for which tickets have been sold less the sum of the
12 amount paid out in the prizes and to retailers, and direct and
13 estimated administrative expenses of the Department solely
14 related to the scratch-off game under this Section.

15 (c) During the time that tickets are sold for the Illinois
16 veterans scratch-off game, the Department shall not
17 unreasonably diminish the efforts devoted to marketing any
18 other instant scratch-off lottery game.

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

21 (Source: P.A. 103-381, eff. 7-28-23; 104-234, eff. 8-15-25.)