



To: Chairmen Berger and Fonfara, Ranking Members Davis and Frantz, and other distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee
From: Anne Noble, President and CEO, CT Lottery Corporation
Re: HB 5625: AAC the Sale, Via Internet Auction, of License Plates Issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles
Date: 3/18/16

Position: Opposed to the first sentence in section 1(b).

Background: This bill appears to establish an internet-based license plate auction program at DMV, as a way to generate revenue from desirable license plates. It also allows DMV to conduct a weekly “lottery” for participating plate holders and sell advertising on its website.

Justification: The CT Lottery is opposed to the use of the word “lottery” in section 1(b) and respectfully request that it be changed to “contest” or “sweepstakes.” Section 106 of Public Act 15-255 states that only the CT Lottery has the jurisdiction to sell lottery games within the state of Connecticut.

The CT Lottery is also concerned about providing consultation for a contest or sweepstakes which is beyond its purview. There is an existing regulatory structure for contests and sweepstakes. The legislation appears silent on this.

CT Lottery drawings are overseen by the DCP and independent auditors at the CT Lottery’s expense. Lottery drawings, which are different than a contest or sweepstakes, are time intensive, require special equipment, have layers of security built in and are much more nuanced and sophisticated than meets the eye.

Lottery games require careful design based in part on population, payout and price. We do not have enough information to determine the viability of a license plate contest or sweepstakes as proposed, or to determine its potential impact on existing lottery games.