

**Public Safety and Security Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

Bill No.: HB-6038

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROMOTION OF LOTTERY WINNINGS.

Vote Date: 3/24/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/2/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

Co-Sponsor: Rep. John K. Hampton, 16th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would require that the CT Lottery not publish without written consent the photograph of a person who redeems a winning lottery ticket on the website and if requested will remove a person's name from the list of winners no later than five days after receiving the request. This would keep the information private for those to wish to keep it private.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

**Robert T. Simmelkjaer II, Chairperson, Board of Directors and Gregory Smith,
President and CEO of CT. Lottery**

We at CT Lottery appreciate the interest in protecting player safety by allowing certain lottery prize winners to remain anonymous. Under the Freedom of Information in Connecticut, a winner's name and town of residence is a matter of public record, unless they can demonstrate a safety risk through a protective order or other means. CT Lottery does not publish photographs of lottery winners without written consent.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Timothy C. Ward, Simsbury, CT

Mr. Ward is in support of this bill. Winning a lottery jackpot can be a life changing and the larger jackpots can bring more extreme changes. Add to it the whole world knows about your

new-found wealth, can cause many to contact you for nefarious reasons. When the information is public you can be a target of relentless and unmerciful harassment.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Colleen M. Murphy, Executive Director, General Counsel, Freedom of Information Commission

Ms. Murphy is in opposition to this bill. The Commission questions the public policy behind such a proposal. There are reasons for disclosure of the names of winners who voluntarily participate in a lottery system offered by a quasi-public agency. Access to public information ensures that winnings are distributed fairly and guards against wrongdoing in the system. Public information will likely keep abuse from being hidden.

Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Asst. Clerk

Date: 4/5/2021