

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 175

BY REPRESENTATIVE HEBERT

LOTTERY: Provides for a new lottery game to benefit veterans of armed services

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 47:9008(D), 9031, and 9032, relative to the lottery; to provide for a lottery
3 game to benefit veterans; to create the Veterans Game Board; to provide for the
4 duties and functions of the board; to provide for the Veterans Game Fund; to provide
5 relative to proceeds deposited into the fund; to provide for disbursements to
6 applicants; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 47:9008(D), 9031, and 9032 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §9008. Board; lottery games; regulation

10 * * *

11 D. The board shall create and adopt in accordance with the Administrative
12 Procedure Act rules necessary for the conduct of an instant lottery game to benefit
13 veterans in this state. The board shall do all of the following:

14 (1) Make tickets to the game continuously available for sale to the extent
15 practicable.

16 (2)(a) Design the tickets and market and advertise the game in a manner
17 intended to inform the public that the tickets are available for purchase and that all
18 game proceeds are dedicated to programs for veterans in this state. The game tickets
19 shall clearly state that the game proceeds are used to benefit veterans in this state.

1 (b) The Department of Veterans Affairs may make recommendations to the
2 board related to marketing and advertising of the game.

3 (3) Ensure that all revenues from the game are deposited into the Veterans
4 Game Fund established in R.S. 47:9032.

5 * * *

6 §9031. Veterans Game Board; disbursement of funds

7 A. The Veterans Game Board, hereafter referred to as the "veterans board",
8 is hereby created to be solely responsible for the disbursement of the funds in the
9 Veterans Game Fund to programs or entities with the purpose of bettering the lives
10 of veterans in this state. Veterans board members shall serve without compensation
11 and shall not require confirmation by the Senate.

12 B. The chief executive officer of the Louisiana Lottery Corporation shall
13 serve as chairman until the first meeting of the veterans board, at which time the
14 veterans board shall elect a chairman and vice chairman. The chairman and vice
15 chairman shall be elected annually.

16 C. The Louisiana Lottery Corporation shall provide administrative support
17 and staff as needed by the veterans board. Staff shall maintain all records of the
18 veterans board at the corporation's office. Administrative costs for the operation of
19 the veterans board, except salary or wages of the employees of the Louisiana Lottery
20 Corporation, shall be paid from the Veterans Game Fund as provided for in R.S.
21 47:9032.

22 D. The veterans board shall meet annually in person to review submitted
23 grant applications and disburse grant funds to selected applicants. The veterans
24 board shall meet at the same location the board of directors of the Louisiana Lottery
25 Corporation holds its meetings, unless the chairman finds it necessary or convenient
26 in the performance of the duties of the veterans board to meet at another location.

27 E. The veterans board shall consist of the following members:

28 (1) The secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs or his designee.

29 (2) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.

1 (3) The secretary of Louisiana Economic Development or his designee.

2 (4) The state commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of
3 Louisiana, or his designee.

4 (5) The commander of the American Legion, Department of Louisiana, or
5 his designee.

6 (6) The state commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Department
7 of Louisiana, or his designee.

8 (7) A veteran of the United States Armed Forces appointed by the governor.

9 F. A majority of the veterans board shall constitute a quorum. Voting by
10 proxy, by representation, or by mail is prohibited.

11 G. The veterans board shall meet once a year to distribute proceeds received
12 from the Department of Treasury to the Veterans Game Fund in the form of one-time
13 grants. Applicants shall be one of the following:

14 (1) Tax-exempt under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and
15 in existence for three years.

16 (2) An accredited college or university in this state.

17 (3) The Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC).

18 (4) An established Veterans Court program pursuant to R.S. 13:5361 et seq.

19 (5) A police jury or municipal governing authority seeking to improve parish
20 veterans' service offices pursuant to R.S. 29:262.

21 H. The veterans board shall only consider applicants who seek to improve
22 the needs of veterans and their families. Each one-time grant shall be limited to fifty
23 thousand dollars. Applicants are not restricted from reapplying for future grants.

24 I. At the end of each fiscal year, the veterans board shall submit to the board
25 of directors of the Louisiana Lottery Corporation a report of all disbursements and
26 actions taken toward the intended mission of the veterans board. Any unused funds
27 shall be returned to the Department of Treasury.

1 §9032. Veterans Game Fund

2 There is hereby created in the state treasury the Veterans Game Fund,
3 hereinafter referred to as the "fund". After satisfying the requirements of the Bond
4 Security and Redemption Fund as provided in Article VII, Section 9(B) of the
5 Constitution of Louisiana, the treasurer shall deposit into the fund all revenue
6 generated from lottery games created pursuant to R.S. 47:9008(D). All unexpended
7 and unencumbered principal monies in the fund at the end of the year shall be
8 returned to the Department of Treasury. Principal monies in the fund shall be
9 invested by the treasurer in the same manner as monies in the state general fund, and
10 any interest earned on such investment shall be deposited in and credited to the fund.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 175 Original

2026 Regular Session

Hebert

Abstract: Provides for a lottery game and related fund with proceeds dedicated to benefitting veterans and their families.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:9008(D)) directs the La. Gaming Control Bd. to create a new lottery game for the benefit of veterans. Further requires the La. Gaming Control Bd. to adopt regulations in accordance with the APA for purposes of the lottery game prescribed in proposed law.

Proposed law requires all proceeds of the game to be deposited into the Veterans Game Fund established in proposed law (R.S. 47:9032).

Proposed law (R.S. 47:9031) creates the Veterans Game Bd. and provides for composition, recordkeeping, meeting requirements, and other matters relative to board functions. Requires the La. Lottery Corp. to provide administrative support to the Veterans Game Bd.

Proposed law requires the Veterans Game Bd. to disburse proceeds of the lottery game through one-time grants. Further provides certain criteria for grant applicants.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:9032) requires the treasurer to deposit all proceeds of the lottery game into the Veterans Game Fund. Further requires the treasurer to invest proceeds in the same manner as monies in the state general fund.

Proposed law requires unused principal funds at the end of each year to be returned to the Dept. of Treasury. Further requires interest earned on investments to remain in the Veterans Game Fund.

(Adds R.S. 47:9008(D), 9031, and 9032)