



REPRESENTATIVE STEVE THOMPSON

House Majority Leader

Serving House District 2 • Fairbanks and North Pole

Sponsor Statement HB 239

"An Act establishing a state lottery; providing for participation in multi-state lotteries; establishing the Alaska State Lottery Board in the Department of Revenue; relating to confidentiality of information regarding lottery winners; requiring background investigations by the Department of Public Safety; and providing for an effective date."

Over the course of the current legislative session, we will consider many ways to address the State's fiscal challenges. One of the most important things we must do is to identify ways to provide support for necessary state services in the face of dwindling oil revenue. Enabling Alaskans to participate in lottery draw games, like Powerball™, is one way to generate new revenue for the State.

Lotteries in the United States date back to the very beginnings of our country. From funding some of the first ships bound for Jamestown, to providing support for the construction of public buildings, roads, and canals, lotteries were a critical tool for the growth and development of the original 13 colonies.

Currently, 45 states allow their residents to participate in lottery games. HB 239 will allow Alaskans to purchase tickets only for lottery draw games. While lottery revenues represent only a small portion of overall revenue for the states that conduct them, the sale of lottery draw tickets is nonetheless a valuable tool as states seek to generate diverse revenue sources to provide public services. It is projected that the sale of lottery draw tickets would generate between \$5-\$10 million a year in revenue for Alaska.

As we continue to work towards a more efficient state government that balances our revenues and expenditures, I urge you to consider the role that the sale of lottery draw game tickets could play in helping Alaska build a strong fiscal foundation.

February 6, 2020

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