

HB 246 -- LOTTERY WINNER PRIVACY

SPONSOR: Rowland (155)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 1.

This bill prohibits the lottery commission and state employees from publishing the name, address, or other identifying information of a lottery winner without the lottery winner's permission.

This bill is the same as HB 2422 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will protect the privacy of lottery winners.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Rowland.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that winner anonymity can lead to concerns about accountability, especially when such large sums of money are at issue. Transparency is important so that Missourians can see the winner is truly random and not in some way affiliated with the lottery. The state would also lose out on the best form of advertising for the lottery which are the stories about the winners.

Testifying on the bill were Missouri Broadcasters Association and the Missouri Press Association.