HOUSE . . . . No. **5160**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

Adam J. Scanlon

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To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a Commission Regarding Distribution of Lottery Revenue.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Adam J. Scanlon	*14th Bristol*	*12/30/2025*

HOUSE . . . . No. 5160

By Representative Scanlon of North Attleborough, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Adam J. Scanlon for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the distribution of lottery revenues to municipalities. Revenue.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

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An Act establishing a Commission Regarding Distribution of Lottery Revenue.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1   SECTION 1. There shall be a special commission established for the purpose of making

2   an examination and study relative to the distribution of lottery revenues to municipalities in the

3   commonwealth. The commission shall consist of the following members: the governor, or a

4   designee, who shall serve as chair; the executive director of the state lottery commission, or a

5   designee; 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the

6   speaker and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; 2 members of the senate, 1 of

7   whom shall be appointed by the senate president and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the

8   minority leader; 1 representative of the Massachusetts Municipal Association; and 11 persons to

9   be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a mayor of a city in the commonwealth, 1 of

10   whom shall be a select board member from a town in the commonwealth, 1 of whom shall be

11   municipal finance officer, 1 of whom shall be a member of a municipality's legislative body such

12   as a city councilor, town councilor or town meeting member, 1 of whom shall be a representative

13   from the Massachusetts council on gaming and health, 1 of whom shall be a member of the

14   lottery commission, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the New England Convenience Store

15   and Energy Marketers Association, Inc., 1 of whom shall be a representative from the Retailers

16   Association of Massachusetts, Inc., 1 of whom shall be representative of SEIU local 888, 1 of

17   whom shall be a representative operating as a licensed sales agent in a brick and mortar retail

18   store in the commonwealth, and 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts

19   Restaurant Association, Inc.

20   SECTION 2. The commission shall examine the current distribution of lottery revenues

21   and provide recommendations to improve distributional equity of lottery revenues.

22   The commission's examination shall include an analysis of:

23   the current distribution's equity by (i) geographic region, (ii) by the size and density of a

24   municipality from rural to urban, (iii) municipality's median household income and other

25   economic variables, (iv) status of a municipality's being a Gateway City versus not a Gateway

26   City and (v) other demographic variables that the commission deems of interest;

27   to what extent the current distribution mechanism distributes lottery revenues to

28   municipalities in proportion to municipality's residents' spending on lottery;

29   whether the formula equitably reflects the needs of municipalities based on (i)

30   population, (ii) income levels, (iii) property tax base, (iv) reliance on state aid; and (v) other

31   relevant factors; and

32   the impact of lottery revenue distribution on local budgeting and public services;

33   The commission's recommendations shall include:

34   (1) whether a specific formula should be established for distribution of lottery revenues to

35   municipalities, notwithstanding how unrestricted general government aid is distributed pursuant

36   to section 18C of chapter 58 of the General Laws, to enhance regional and economic equity; and

37   (2) whether such a proposed distribution formula should: (i) apportion state lottery

38   revenue to cities and towns proportionate to lottery sales in those cities and towns; (ii) establish a

39   minimum distribution of lottery revenues to municipalities based on each municipality's

40   residents' spending on lottery; and (iii) establish a maximum distribution of lottery revenues to

41   municipalities based on each municipality's residents' spending on lottery, including whether a

42   municipality without lottery ticket sale licensees, pursuant to section 27 of chapter 10 of the

43   General Laws, shall receive any distribution of lottery revenues.

44   SECTION 3. Not later than December 31, 2027, the commission shall report to the office

45   of the state treasurer and receiver general and the general court's joint committee on

46   municipalities and regional government and the joint committee on revenue, the result of its

47   examination and recommendations, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its

48   recommendations into effect.