# Options Exist for Increasing Lottery Proceeds for Education

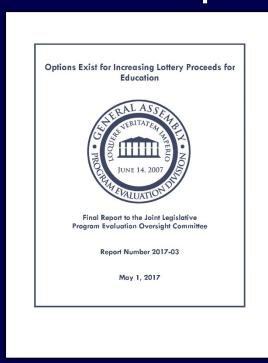
A presentation to the Joint Legislative
Oversight Committee on the North Carolina State Lottery

February 15, 2018

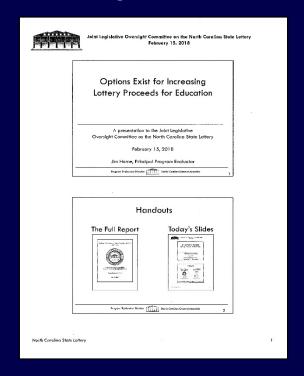
Jim Horne, Principal Program Evaluator

#### Handouts

#### The Full Report



#### Today's Slides



#### Our Charge

Determine if the Lottery is providing the maximum benefit to the State by examining its operations, existing revenue-generating strategies, and efforts to reduce costs



NC Lottery is a \$2 billion business

Ticket sales have grown every year

Fiscal Year 2017 sales were \$2.4 billion

Proceeds to education were \$622.5 million

Lottery sales are based on two types of games:

Instant scratch-off games (68%)

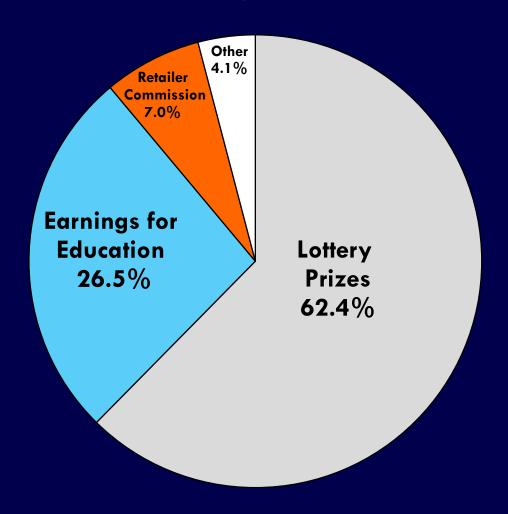




Draw games (32%)



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# Findings

#### Finding 1

NC Lottery's performance is slightly above average when compared with other states

#### Finding 1: Performance

#### Per capita sales:

• NC Lottery \$197

National average \$185

#### Per capita returns to the state:

NC Lottery \$52

National average \$48

#### Finding 1: Performance

#### NC Lottery ranks:

- 18<sup>th</sup> out of 44 in per capita sales
- 14<sup>th</sup> out of 34 in per capita returns to the state

Goal is to be ranked among the top 12 lottery states in next five years

#### Finding 1: Performance

Among six neighboring states, NC Lottery ranks last in:

- per capita sales
- per capita returns to the state

#### Finding 2

Expanding the retailer network could increase lottery revenue

• Best practice: 1 per 1,200 residents

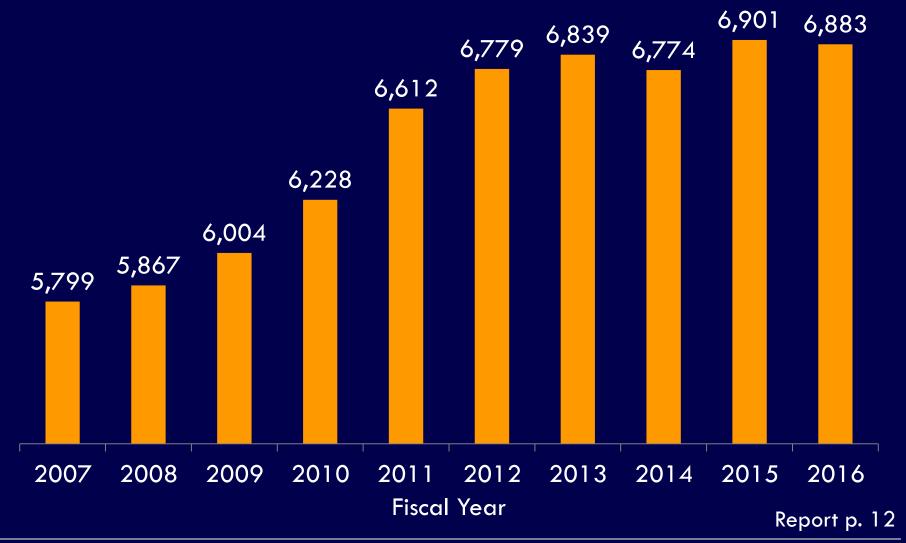
• NC retailer density: 1 per 1,455 residents

 Top 10 states with highest per capita sales averaged 1 per 1,173 residents

 Massachusetts Lottery ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in per capita sales and 1<sup>st</sup> in retailer density (1 per 825 residents)

 Overall, North Carolina ranks 26<sup>th</sup> out of 44 lottery states in retailer density

 Among six neighboring states, NC Lottery ranks next to last in retailer density



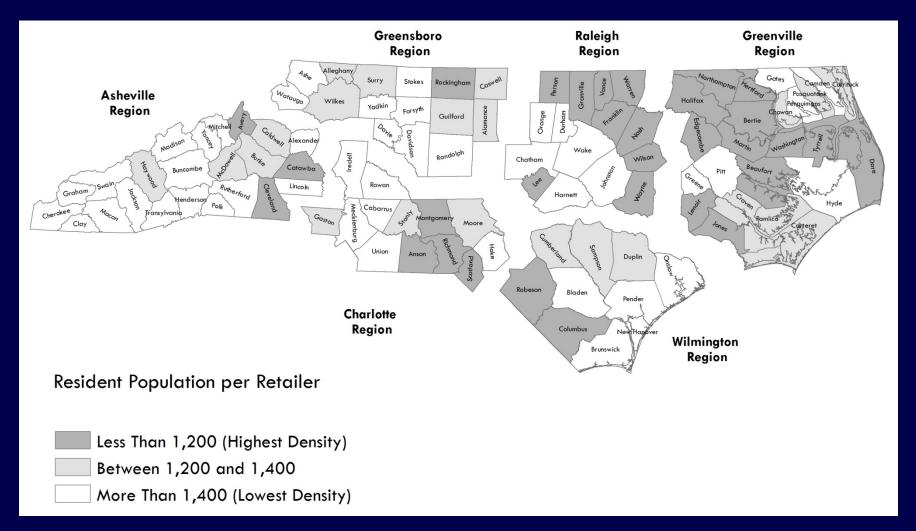
Install lottery machines in ABC stores

Expand to other retail locations such as airports

Increase use of self-service vending machines

 Focus on recruiting new retailers in counties that have lowest retailer density

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#### Finding 3

Alternative approaches to structure and amount of retailer compensation could yield additional proceeds for education

 Lottery retailers in North Carolina receive a 7% commission set by statute

Plus, retailer incentives have been added boosting actual compensation rate to 7.04%

- Lottery states differ in how they reward retailers
- Most states have a sales commission rate as a base and then add incentives
- Average retailer compensation rate among the 44 lottery states is 6.28%, ranging from 4.89% to 8.44%
- At 7.04%, North Carolina is tied with Tennessee for the 7<sup>th</sup> highest compensation paid to lottery retailers

North Carolina's compensation paid to its lottery retailers is above the average paid in other states

#### 7.04% is higher than:

- national average of 6.28%
- average paid in adjacent states of 6.48%

 Amount of compensation retailers receive directly influences how much money is available to be transferred to the State for education

• If the retailer commission rate had been 6% instead of 7%, an additional \$157 million would have been available for Lottery Education Fund

State	Instant Game	Draw Game
	Commission %	Commission %
Colorado	7.00	6.00
Maine	7.00	5.00
Nebraska	5.00	5.50
Rhode Island	5.00	8.00
Vermont	5.75	5.75-6.00
Wisconsin	6.25	5.50

#### Finding 4

Additional options to promote sales of lottery tickets could result in increased transfers to the Education Lottery Fund

#### Finding 4: Keno



# Finding 4: Options



# Finding 4: Options



#### Finding 5

NC Lottery could improve how it measures effectiveness of its advertising expenditures

- \$20 million spent on advertising in FY 2016
- \$20 million spent on advertising in FY 2017
- Question of whether the optimal amount is being spent on advertising is unresolved
- Relationship between advertising expenditures and ticket sales needs to be measured at a more granular level over time

- Good financial and performance management requires that every operating expense be measured in order to determine its contribution to organization's mission and return on investment
- If you can't measure it, you can't manage it
  - Peter Drucker

- Measuring advertising effectiveness is challenging
- PED attempted regression analysis to measure the relationship of advertising expense to sales
- NC Lottery's raw advertising and sales data are incompatible for analytical review

Measuring relationship between advertising and lottery ticket sales is difficult but it is possible

Studies in other states:

- Florida (OPPAGA)
- Washington State (JLARC)

# Recommendations

#### Recommendation 1

The General Assembly should require the Lottery to establish targets for retailer growth and to annually report on its achievement in meeting these targets

#### Recommendation 1 (cont'd.)

 All efforts to expand retailer network should be included in annual report to General Assembly

First report submitted to the Lottery Oversight
 Committee by December 1, 2018

#### Recommendation 2

The General Assembly should direct the Lottery to examine the retailer compensation structure for all games and develop alternatives for rewarding the performance of retailers

#### Recommendation 2 (cont'd.)

- Lottery should hire independent contractor
- Comment on why retailers participate in selling lottery tickets
- Results submitted to the Lottery Oversight
   Committee by December 1, 2018

#### Recommendation 3

The General Assembly should direct the Lottery to provide a business case for options to increase sales of lottery tickets

#### Recommendation 3 (cont'd.)

- If interested in an option, direct Lottery to provide a detailed business case to the Lottery Oversight Committee by December 1, 2018
- Include time frames for implementation and needed statutory changes, if any

#### Recommendation 4

The General Assembly should require the Lottery to develop tools to measure the increase in sales resulting directly from advertising expenditures and to annually report on its efforts

**Program Evaluation Division** 

#### Recommendation 4 (cont'd.)

- All efforts to measure the effectiveness of advertising should be included
- First report submitted to the Lottery Oversight Committee by December 1, 2018
- Include impact of specific advertising campaign expenditures on sales

# Report available online at www.ncleg.net/PED/Reports/reports.html

