

Texas Lottery Commission Press Release - March 27, 2003

Contact:

Kristina Tirloni, 512-344-5144

Karen Kalergis, 512-344-5436

Leticia Vasquez, 512-344-5208

## Texas Lottery Commission Approves *Lotto Texas* Changes

(Austin, March 27) - Today, the Texas Lottery Commission approved the new *Lotto Texas*<sup>TM</sup> game rule. Sales for the new game will begin Sunday, May 4, with the first drawing to be held on Wednesday, May 7.

"The new *Lotto Texas* game will provide players with a chance to win higher-level jackpots and increase their overall chances of winning," said Texas Lottery Commission Executive Director Reagan Greer. "And, we anticipate the changes to generate additional sales, and that translates into more revenue for the State of Texas."

Greer said it is estimated that the new game may generate more than \$50 million in additional revenue during the first full fiscal year of sales.

The new *Lotto Texas* will be a bonus ball-style game similar to *Texas Two Step*<sup>TM</sup>. Players will choose five numbers from one field of 44 numbers, and then choose a Bonus Ball number from a second field of 44 numbers. The odds of winning the jackpot prize will change from 1 in 25.8 million to 1 in 47.7 million.

The game also will include the following features:

- Higher jackpots (the possibility of three to four jackpots between \$65 and \$100 million during a 52-week period)
- Increased number of prize tiers from four to eight
- Increased number of guaranteed prize tiers from one to three
- Change in overall odds of winning any prize from 1 in 71 to 1 in 57
- Approximately 25 percent increase in the number of overall winners

"Our sales figures confirm that players are speaking with their dollars and want to participate when the jackpot gets to a higher level," said Greer. "The new *Lotto Texas* game gives players what they told us they want-higher jackpots. We hope that players will try the new game-and appreciate what we've done when they see the higher level jackpots, as well."

Players will continue to choose the jackpot payment options at the time they purchase their *Lotto Texas* tickets, and the cost to play will continue to be \$1. Drawings still will be held every Wednesday and Saturday night at 10:12 p.m.

Saturday's *Lotto Texas* jackpot is worth \$7 million. Since the Texas Lottery began in 1992, more than \$10.3 billion has been transferred to the State of Texas. Total FY '03 sales-to-date are \$1.74 billion, up 8.4 percent from FY '02 sales-to-date of \$1.61 billion.

For more information about the Texas Lottery, please visit the official Texas Lottery Commission Web site at <http://www.txlottery.org>.