

Texas Lottery Commission Press Release - December 6, 2004

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## Mega Year Ends With Millions Won

(Austin, December 6) - Exactly 366 days passed between December 3, 2003, and December 3, 2004, marking the first year Texas participated in the multi-state *Mega Millions*™ lottery game. Sales totaled more than \$289 million, of which \$234 million were *Mega Millions* ticket sales and \$55 million were made up of Megaplier™ ticket sales. Texas ranks in the top three among the participating states in total sales.

"With the signing of House Bill 3459 allowing Texas to join a multijurisdictional lottery game, it set into motion one of the highest sales years in the history of the Texas Lottery, and enabled us to transfer more than \$1 billion to the Foundation School Fund for fiscal year 2004," said Reagan E. Greer, Executive Director of the Texas Lottery Commission.

Greer formally signed the multijurisdictional lottery game agreement with *Mega Millions* on October 16, 2003, making Texas the 11th state to sell tickets for *Mega Millions*, a multi-state game known for its big jackpots.

During the first year, Texans had the chance to play for 19 jackpots that reached levels of \$100 million or more. The highest *Mega Millions* jackpot in the last year was \$290 million. Players won more than \$118 million in cash prizes with *Mega Millions*, and an additional \$22 million was paid out to players who chose the Megaplier feature. The Megaplier feature allows players the chance to double, triple or quadruple any *Mega Millions* non-grand/jackpot prize. During the first year of sales, 14 players Megaplied the second-tier prize of \$175,000, and collected prizes of \$350,000 to \$700,000.

"This first year was made more exciting with Texas' first *Mega* millionaire, Ut Van Nguyen of Carrollton," Greer said. He claimed a \$101 million *Mega* jackpot in October.

Greer also noted that for every dollar spent purchasing a *Mega Millions* ticket, about 38 percent of that dollar goes to the Foundation School Fund.

Tuesday's *Mega Millions* jackpot is worth an estimated \$10 million.

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