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## TEXAS LOTTERY COMMISSION APPROVES NEW **POWERBALL®** GAME RULE

*Bigger Jackpots, Better Odds, More Chances to Win \$1 Million*

**(AUSTIN)** – The three-member Texas Lottery Commission unanimously approved game rule changes for *Powerball®* during a meeting held today at Texas Lottery® headquarters in Austin. Bigger starting grand/jackpot prizes, better odds of winning and more chances to win \$1 million will set this new version of the game apart from the original. The price will also increase from \$1 to \$2 per play.

The first drawing under the new rule is expected to occur on January 18, 2012, and *Powerball* players in Texas will be able to purchase tickets for the updated game beginning on January 15. Starting jackpots for the game will double to \$40 million.

A matrix change will also provide better odds of winning in the enhanced *Powerball* game. Players will continue to choose five numbers from one to 59, but the pool of Powerball numbers will drop from 39 to 35. Odds of winning the grand/jackpot prize will improve to one in 175,223,510, and overall odds of winning any prize will improve to one in 32.

“After reviewing the changes proposed by the Multi-State Lottery Association, which runs *Powerball*, we feel that the new game will benefit Texas Lottery players and retailers, and more importantly, we hope it will provide increased revenues for the Foundation School Fund,” said Texas Lottery Commission Chair Mary Ann Williamson.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the new *Powerball* will be more opportunities for players to win \$1 million or more. The second-tier prize, awarded for matching all five numbers but not the Powerball number, will increase from \$200,000 to \$1 million.

Players will also be able to participate in the revamped *Power Play®* feature for an extra \$1 per play. *Power Play* will now offer set increases for non-grand/jackpot prizes, including the chance to win \$2 million for the second-tier prize.

“We are excited to provide the enhanced *Powerball* game in Texas,” said Texas Lottery Commission Executive Director Gary Grief. “By introducing this new game at a \$2 price point, we are able to emulate our successful instant ticket strategy of providing a range of games at varying price points. Players who prefer to spend \$1 per play will still be able to participate in the *Lotto Texas* and *Mega Millions* drawing games.”

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