

Texas Lottery Commission Press Release - June 21, 2005

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New *Mega Millions*™ Game Starts Tomorrow - And A Chance To Win Up To \$1 Million

(Austin, June 21) - Starting 6 a.m. tomorrow, players get their chance to play the new *Mega Millions*™ game, and that means they also could win up to \$1 million without even hitting the jackpot.

"The new *Mega Millions* game offers some really exciting features for players in Texas," said Texas Lottery Commission Executive Director Reagan E. Greer. "For starters, the second-tier prize changed to \$250,000, up from \$175,000, and the third-tier prize level goes up from \$5,000 to \$10,000. For anyone purchasing a *Mega Millions* ticket in Texas, and choosing to play the Megaplier feature, too, it could mean multiplying that \$250,000 prize up to a \$1 million prize instead."

Players will select five numbers from 1 to 56 and then a Mega Ball number from a second field of 1 to 46. Each play costs \$1. To win the jackpot prize, a player must match all five numbers and the Mega Ball for the drawing. Jackpots will start at \$12 million. Drawings will continue to be held every Tuesday and Friday evening. Overall odds of winning are 1 in 40. Odds of winning the jackpot prize are 1 in 175.7 million.

For an extra dollar per play, players can choose the Megaplier feature. The feature, played only in Texas, allows players the chance to increase their non-grand/jackpot prize winnings by 2, 3 or 4 times.

The changes came after the California Lottery announced in February plans to become the 12th participating state to join the multi-state game. The new *Mega Millions* game is projected to generate more than \$67 million in additional revenue to the state of Texas from sales for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2005 through Fiscal Year 2009. Since joining *Mega Millions* in 2003, ticket sales have topped more than \$400 million (amount includes Megaplier sales).

"In addition to the fun of the game, there's the good feeling of knowing that the revenue from *Mega Millions* ticket sales in Texas goes to the Foundation School Fund to support Texas education," said Greer.

After tonight's drawing, *Mega Millions* will be played in the following 12 states: California,

Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

Tonight's *Mega Millions* jackpot is worth an estimated \$31 million. If there are no tickets matching the first five numbers and the Mega Ball for tonight's drawing, the estimated jackpot for Friday's drawing will be worth \$42 million.

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

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The Texas Lottery Commission supports public education by contributing to the Foundation School Fund.