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***MEGA MILLIONS*[®] WORLD RECORD JACKPOT SOARS TO \$500 MILLION ON STRENGTH OF SALES**

(AUSTIN) – The nation is catching *Mega Millions*[®] fever! The world record jackpot is now an eye-popping \$500 million, with a cash value of \$359.4 million.

“Swift sales for the *Mega Millions* game nationwide have pushed the jackpot into the stratosphere,” said Texas Lottery Commission Executive Director Gary Grief, who serves as lead director for the *Mega Millions* group. “We are excited to share this unprecedented moment with our players and retailers.”

The jackpot has been increasing since January 27, as the *Mega Millions* jackpot was last won on January 24. The jackpot has now rolled 18 times without a winner.

The odds of winning the jackpot are approximately one in 176 million. The odds of winning any of the *Mega Millions* prizes are approximately 1 in 40.

Drawings are held every Tuesday and Friday night at the *Mega Millions* studio in Atlanta, Georgia.

Beginning with the first ticket sold in 1992, the Texas Lottery[®] has generated more than \$19 billion in revenue for the state and distributed \$37 billion in prizes to lottery players. Since 1997, the Texas Lottery has contributed \$14 billion to the Foundation School Fund, which supports

(more)

Mega Millions jackpot at \$363 million/page 2

public education in Texas. As authorized by the Texas Legislature, certain Texas Lottery revenues benefit state programs including the Fund for Veterans Assistance.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, the Texas Lottery provides several entertaining games for lottery players including *Powerball*®, *Mega Millions*, *Lotto Texas*®, *Texas Two Step*®, *Pick 3*™, *Daily 4*™, *Cash Five*® and scratch-offs. For more information about the Texas Lottery, please visit www.txlottery.org.

Top U.S. Lottery Jackpots				
Rank	State	Prize Amount	Draw Date	Game
1	?	\$500 million	March 30, 2012	Mega Millions
2	GA, NJ	\$390 million	March 6, 2007	Mega Millions
3	ID, WA	\$380 million	Jan. 4, 2011	Mega Millions
4	NE	\$365 million	Feb. 18, 2006	Powerball
5	IL, MI	\$363 million	May 9, 2000	The Big Game
6	OR	\$340 million	Oct. 19, 2005	Powerball
7	RI	\$336 million	Feb. 11, 2012	Powerball
7	CA, NY	\$336 million	Aug. 28, 2009	Mega Millions
8	GA, IL, NJ	\$331million	April 16, 2002	The Big Game
9	MD, NJ, TX, VI	\$330 million	Aug. 31, 2007	Mega Millions
10	NY	\$319 million	March 25, 2011	Mega Millions

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