

March 9, 2016

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 95

The Honorable Mary Kay Papen, President Pro Tempore and
Members of the New Mexico State Senate
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Honorable President Pro Tempore Papen and Members of the Senate:

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Article IV, Section 22, I hereby VETO and return SENATE BILL 79, enacted by the Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Session, 2016.

While Senate Bill 79 is a well-intentioned attempt to put additional money into the Lottery Tuition Fund, signing this legislation would actually result in less money in the Lottery Tuition Fund each year.

According to both the New Mexico Lottery Authority and the Higher Education Department, transferring unclaimed Lottery prizes directly into the Lottery Tuition Fund would reduce the amount of money available to be invested in new games and larger payouts, thereby reducing Lottery activity and resulting in an annual decrease in revenue for Lottery scholarships.

The Lottery Authority estimates that unclaimed prizes average between \$2 million and \$3 million a year, but that transferring these funds directly into the Lottery Tuition Fund would lead to a loss of \$5 million to \$6 million annually.

Again, I support the spirit of this legislation and will once again work with Republicans and Democrats to adopt meaningful, balanced reforms to the Lottery Scholarship in the next legislative session in order to preserve this important school assistance for as many New Mexico students as possible.

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 95

The Honorable Mary Kay Papen

March 9, 2016

Page 2

Respectfully yours,

Susana Martinez

Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____, 2016

By _____
Secretary of State

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____, 2016

By _____
Chief Clerk of the Senate