



HB 4008 Lottery Raffle for Hermiston Fair and Rodeo Testimony for House Business and Labor – Jody Wisler

HB 4008 Expands the Lottery's duties into a new area: running gambling operations for others, in this case a raffle for Hermiston. The lottery currently operates the following state-wide raffles for the state:

- St. Patrick's Day Raffle
- Thanksgiving Raffle
- 4th of July Raffle and
- Halloween Raffle

but not raffles for other organizations.

While this bill is for only one organization, one can well imagine the stampede of other organizations and/or jurisdictions asking for the lottery's help in running raffles or even video games.

Over the long haul, this could dilute state lottery profits, especially as the distinction between the state lottery and non-profits' raffles and games could become hard to see.

Since current law defines how lottery winnings are to be spent, it is questionable as to whether it is legal to spend winnings in new ways without a constitutional change, which is clearly the purpose of HB 4008.

Finally, it is difficult to understand why the Hermiston community can't do this fundraising independently, as it has in the past, and as do thousands of other non-profits and community organizations. We're all approached frequently to participate in auctions and raffles, or make donations, and those efforts are organized without a state agency's engagement.

To act on this bill without thoughtful consideration to long term affects i.e. dilution of the profits from the state's lottery and legality seems imprudent.