



## 1997 ASSEMBLY BILL 710

January 13, 1998 – Introduced by Representative DUFF, by request of Irene Brown.  
Referred to Joint committee on Finance.

1     **AN ACT relating to:** the expenditure of \$927,232.46 from moneys appropriated  
2             to the department of revenue for payment of a claim against the state made by  
3             Irene Brown.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill directs the expenditure of \$927,232.46 from moneys appropriated to the department of revenue (DOR) from the lottery fund for payments to holders of winning tickets and shares. The claimant purchased a ticket issued by DOR in the game called “Wisconsin’s Very Own Megabucks”. On March 9, 1997, the claimant’s ticket was drawn and she won \$1,000,000. When the claimant claimed her prize, DOR notified her that it would be paid in annual instalments over a period of 25 years. Prior to purchasing her ticket, the claimant learned about the lottery from information printed on the back of the pay slip used for on-line games, by listening to broadcast advertisements for the lottery and by borrowing a videotape issued by DOR from a lottery retailer. These sources either indicated that the winner of the Megabucks game would be paid in “25 instalments” or provided no information concerning instalment payments. Additional information provided by DOR to the claimant after she claimed her prize indicated that the prize would be paid in 25 annual instalments. The claimant had assumed that her prize would be payable in 25 monthly instalments. Under s. 560.30 (2m), 1995 stats., “[i]f the prize for a winning lottery ... is payable in instalments over a period of years, any informational material about the lottery must state the number of years over which the prize shall be paid”. The claimant claimed \$927,232.46, representing the loss she calculated to be incurred in receiving her prize over a period of 25 years as compared to a period of 25 months, using a “present value of money” accounting methodology and applying an interest rate of 4% on the delayed payments. On April 29, 1997, the claims board recommended denial of this claim. See *Senate Journal*, p. 150.

