



## **Lottery Pays State of Arkansas \$2.8 Million to Retire Startup Loan**

Writing its first official business check, the Arkansas State Lottery repaid the state of Arkansas \$2,804,582.87, the amount spent in the Lottery startup and launch process. The check was signed by Executive Director Ernie Passailaigue and Vice President of Administration Ernestine Middleton and was hand-delivered to the state.

The Arkansas Scholarship Lottery legislation had allotted \$6 million for the startup, with an additional \$3 million available if the need arose. By careful management, the ASL was able to restrict its expenses to less than one-third of the total provided.

Passailaigue noted that the three-month startup time, while setting a record for a quick startup, had a more important goal: "Our rapid startup was all about scholarships and limiting the number of days the Lottery was operating with no income. The sooner we could start selling tickets, the better for the scholarship program."

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