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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Announces "Big" Plans for the New Jersey Lottery Commits Proceeds to School Construction

Governor Christie Whitman today announced that New Jersey will become the seventh state to offer "The Big Game" multi-state lottery. The Governor proposed that proceeds from the new game help fund school construction throughout the Garden State.

The new mega-jackpot lotto game is a multi-state game that has an average jackpot of \$35 million, with the potential to reach \$150 million. The minimum jackpot for the weekly game is \$5 million.

It is expected that during its first year the new game will earn \$155 million dollars, which means up to \$62 million dollars for school construction projects. The balance of the earnings cover the prize awards, operating expenses, agent commissions and vendor fees. The Governor made the announcement while attending "Lottery Beneficiary Day" at Lottery Headquarters in Lawrenceville.

The Governor said the new game will add to the ways New Jersey wins through the lottery. "For more than twenty-nine years, the New Jersey Lottery has made winners of millions of people - veterans, people with developmental disabilities, troubled youth, and students," said the Governor. "Today I am announcing another "big" step in the New Jersey Lottery."

"In keeping with that tradition," said the Governor. "I am proposing that the profits from this game go to school construction projects. This is one more way to provide our students with the education and facilities that they need to succeed."

Tickets will go on sale in New Jersey for the first time on May 26, with a drawing to follow on May 28. Other states that participate in the big game are Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan and Virginia.

"These multi-state games have been very successful and have proven that players want mega-jackpot games," said New Jersey Lottery Executive Director Virginia E. Haines. "Because the number of lottery states has nearly doubled in the last ten years and competition has grown, we thought the climate was right for a multi-state game in New Jersey. We are confident that "The Big Game" will be a hit with our players."

To play the big game, players choose five numbers from a pool of 50 and one number, "The Big Money Ball," from a pool of 36. To win the top-prize, players must match all five numbers and the "Big Money Ball." The odds of winning the top-prize are 1 in 76 million. The game offers nine ways to win and overall odds

of 1 in 31 million. The largest jackpot for "The Big Game" since its inception in 1996 was \$77 million.

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