

**Commissioner Knight Follow-up to Testimony in House Committee on Government  
Operations and Military Affairs (HGOMA)  
January 8, 2026**

**Additional information on online tobacco compliance checks:**

The DLL's Office of Compliance and Enforcement conducted 119 online tobacco compliance checks in calendar year 2025. As a reminder, it is illegal to purchase tobacco products online in the state of Vermont. OCE investigators identify sites selling tobacco products and walk through the ordering process. In roughly 75% of cases, the site operator disallows completion of the transaction when the delivery location of 'Vermont' is selected. Compliance failures, meaning sites that would allow shipment to Vermont, are referred to the Attorney General's Office (AGO). OCE referred 29 cases to the AGO in 2025.

**Game changes for draw games; changes in odds; declining number of winners**

The odds of winning the Powerball grand prize are **1 in 292,201,338**, regardless of how many tickets are sold. The odds of winning Mega Millions recently improved—from more than 1 in 300 million to **1 in 290,472,336**—following game changes implemented in April 2025.

Every ticket has the same chance of winning, and Vermonters have **exactly the same odds per ticket** as players anywhere else in the country. However, because Vermont has a smaller population and fewer total players, it is **statistically less likely** that a winning ticket will be sold in Vermont.

**Responsible gaming messaging**

DLL coordinates with the Department of Mental Health to develop marketing campaigns and materials to support responsible gaming and problem gambling awareness efforts. DLL has specific marketing dollars allocated for these efforts and builds campaigns around the national awareness months in March (Problem Gambling Awareness Month) and September (Responsible Gaming Education Month), in addition to ongoing messaging efforts highlighting [VTgamblinghelp.org](http://VTgamblinghelp.org) and the 1-800-GAMBLER hotline.

**Digital lottery: prevention of underage play**





Digital lottery platforms require players to verify that they meet the legal minimum age before they can open an account or purchase a lottery product. This happens during the registration process using identify verification checks such as validating a date of birth against a government-issued ID. This ensures only eligible adults can participate.

**Digital lottery: geofencing**

Digital lotteries use geofencing technology to enforce physical location requirements that are part of state law. In other words, the only state lottery you can legally play while physically located in Vermont, is the Vermont Lottery. If someone tries to buy lottery products from outside the state, the system will block those transactions.

