

News...

from State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

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Ford Measure to Fix Lottery Loophole & Increase School Funding Passes House

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Legislation to ensure the responsible management of the Illinois Common School Fund and provide more funding for local schools, introduced by state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, has passed by the House. The measure would ensure that tax dollars fund school systems in Illinois, rather than counting on funds from the lottery.

“When our state originally implemented the lottery, the purpose was to provide extra revenue for children in our Illinois schools, but for years, state has relied on lottery funds to make up for a huge lack in education funding,” said Ford. “We cannot allow this practice to continue, letting our government off the hook for its constitutional responsibility of allocating the appropriate amount of dollars to our neighborhood schools.”

Ford introduced House Bill 213, a measure that amends law regarding the Illinois Lottery to ensure that any money transferred to the Common School Fund from the State Lottery Fund shall be added to, and not in lieu of, any other money due to be transferred to the Common School Fund by law or appropriation. In Fiscal Year 15, \$679 million went to the Common School Fund.

“I refuse to stand for the practice of using lottery money as a justification for cutting funding for schools. We must come together to fund our schools to the highest possible amount,” said Ford. “When lawmakers cheat the educational system that is meant to develop our future leaders, we not only cut them short, but we cut short hope for a better future for communities all over our state.”

House Bill 213 passed on the House floor on a vote of 82-22. The bill is currently awaiting action from the Illinois State Senate and is expected to be heard for consideration in the coming week.

Ford represents the Eighth Representative District, which contains parts of Chicago’s Austin neighborhood and portions of Berwyn, Brookfield, Forest Park, La Grange, La Grange Park, North Riverside and Oak Park. For more information, please contact Rep. Ford’s district office at 773-378-5902 or visit www.LaShawnFord.com.