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### **Interest high in potential Hoosier Lottery bid**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) is encouraged by the response to the state’s Hoosier Lottery request for qualifications. The IFA, on behalf of the state, asked entities interested in the possible management of the lottery to submit their qualifications by January 29.

“We’ve had lots of interest, in the double digits, from a mix of firms that operate lottery systems today or are financial partners. We’re pleased with the quality,” said Charles Schalliol, Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Next, the state, with its financial adviser, Morgan Stanley, will determine which firms would be allowed to continue in the process that would lead to a bid.

Governor Mitch Daniels has proposed a higher education plan that would create scholarships for Hoosier high school students who stay in Indiana to work after graduation and a fund that would be tapped to bring world-class researchers and scholars to Indiana’s public universities. The governor is seeking legislation that would allow the state to “franchise” the Hoosier Lottery for a fixed term to a contractor, much like the state regulates casinos and horse tracks, to create the revenue to fund the higher education plan.

Already, 84 percent of lottery operations are contracted to vendors. That includes retailers who sell tickets and ticket-printing machines. Illinois, Michigan and New Jersey are also considering similar lottery licensing arrangements.

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