



RYAN GUILLEN
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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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GUILLEN PROTECTS THE IDENTITY OF TEXAS LOTTERY WINNERS

Allowing Winners to Remain Anonymous and Secure

AUSTIN - Texas State Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) is the author of H.B. 59, which will allow lottery winners to claim prizes anonymously, reducing their risk of being targeted by criminals and enduring unwanted attention. H.B. 59 was signed into law by Governor Abbott on **June 12**.

"Winning the lottery can be a life changing experience for anyone who is lucky enough to hit the jackpot," said Guillen. "No one deserves to be harassed for winning fairly, and ensuring the anonymity of our lottery winners is a way to safeguard their freedom."

Currently, the full identity of winners, including their name, city, and where they bought the ticket, is public record, and is subjected to the media frenzy that often accompanies winning the big prize. People looking to take advantage of those prizewinners also have access to said information, frequently leading to unwanted harassment and grief. Winners of past Texas Lotteries, especially those who have won over \$1 million, have fallen victim to such atrocities as burglary, kidnapping, harassment, fraudulent lawsuits, and other criminal activity due to their new-found wealth.

Representative Guillen understands the importance of transparency in good governance, but he fully believes no citizen deserves to be harassed for winning the lottery. With the filing and passage of H.B. 59, Guillen has proven his commitment to protecting the privacy wishes of lottery prizewinners, and his commitment to making the Texas Lottery as successful as possible.

"It is important for people to know that if they should be lucky enough to buy a lottery ticket and win, their identity and information will be protected," said Guillen. "Having contributed more than \$19 billion to Texas public education and more than \$66 million to Texas veterans, the state lottery is one of the most successful and beneficial programs in the state of Texas. H.B. 59 will make it even better."

The new law takes effect on **September 1, 2017**.

Serving ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, Ryan Guillen is known for his hard work, fierce independence, and relentless efforts for South Texas families. Recently, Capitol Inside called him a "House Bill Machine," and a "one-person assembly line for legislation." Since elected, few other legislators have passed more bills than Guillen. Sign up for updates at ryanguillen.com, facebook.com/representative.guillen, and twitter.com/ryanguillen.

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