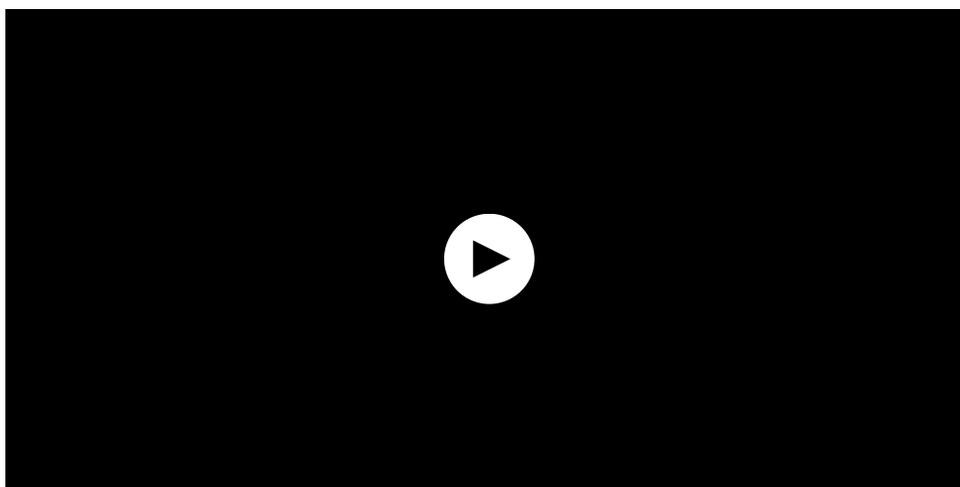


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Alabama lawmaker introduces state lottery bill that rivals Gov. Bentley's

BY PATRICK THOMAS | TUESDAY, AUGUST 9TH 2016



Republican Sen. Jim McClendon of Springville said Tuesday that he will introduce a second lottery bill in addition to the one he is sponsoring that is backed by Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley. (abc3340.com)

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MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A state senator is introducing a rival lottery bill that would allow electronic lottery terminals at state dog tracks.

Governor Robert Bentley is traveling the state and highlighting the need for additional funding for Medicaid. Gov. Bentley explained, "The lottery to me is not my first choice of funding for medicaid but it is about the only choice that we have.."

The agency will have \$85 million less than it says it needs to continue current services when the new general fund budget goes into effect October 1. Tuesday morning, Governor Bentley visited two facilities in Tuscaloosa, Arc of Tuscaloosa County and Indian Rivers Mental Health Clinic, that depend on funding from the Alabama medicaid agency.

Gov. Bentley said, "Let's have a clean bill, let's have one that the people will pass. Let's have one that allows money to flow into the Medicaid fund and other agencies." By clean he meant allowing purchase of lottery tickets only.

Republican Sen. Jim McClendon of Springville said Tuesday that he will introduce a second lottery bill in addition to the one he is sponsoring that is backed by the governor.

The second proposal would allow electronic lottery terminals at dog tracks in Birmingham, Mobile, Macon County and Greene County. It would also authorize the governor to negotiate a compact with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

McClendon estimated the second bill, which would allow the electronic terminals, would bring in \$427 million annually. A lottery alone would raise a projected \$225 million.

Gov. Robert Bentley is calling a special session that begins Monday to consider lottery legislation.

"I think mine is the best and has the best chance of passing," Bentley said Tuesday. "It certainly has the best chance of passing in the House because House members have said they are only going to pass a clean bill like mine."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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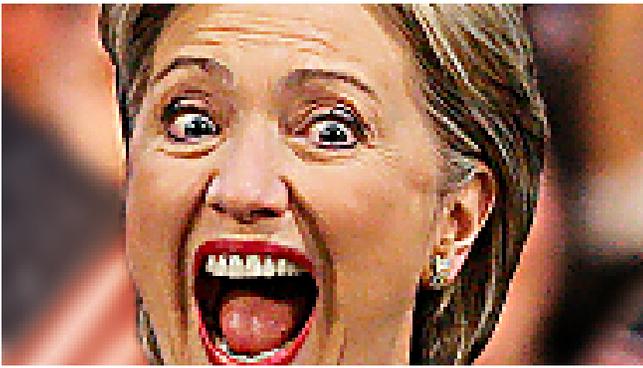


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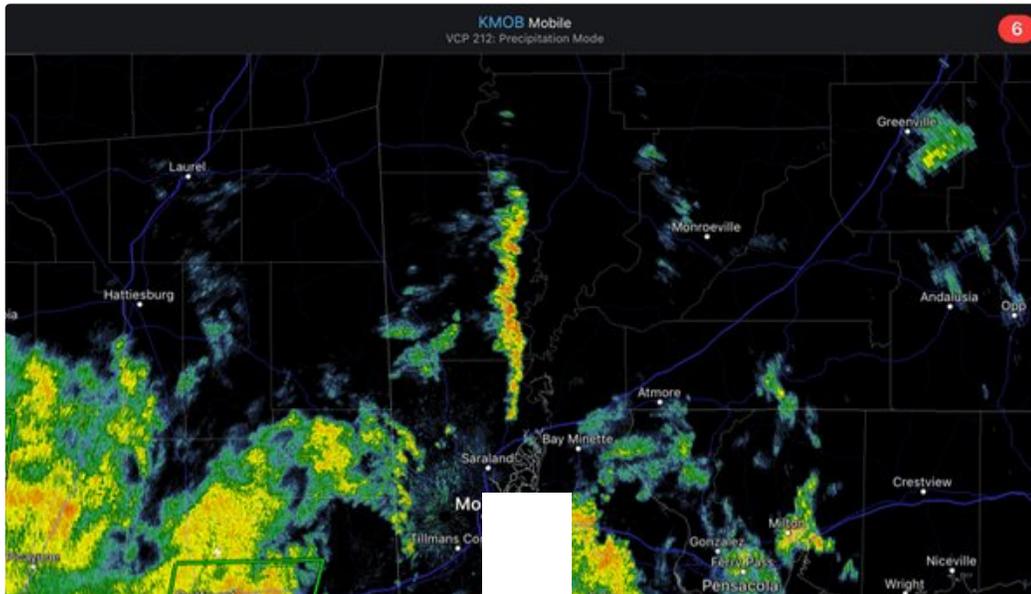
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