

## ***“Cashless” Ohio lottery to boost K-12 funding***

The Ohio Lottery Commission recently announced that it will go “cashless” in fiscal year 2018, retrofitting all lottery vending machines to accept debit and credit cards, increasing net profits – and allocations to public schools -- by as much as \$7 and \$14 million in fiscal years 2018 and 2019, respectively.

“No other state lottery has implemented a full cashless program, and ours will be at the forefront of the cashless initiative among state lotteries,” said Danielle Frizzi-Babb, who serves as the commission’s spokesperson.



State Senator Bill Coley (R-Liberty Township), a vocal proponent for lottery changes, said as much as 40 percent of the population doesn’t always carry cash.

“When we preclude those people from buying lottery tickets, it just seems silly to me,” he said.

Identifying alternative funding streams is particularly important as the legislature seeks to address a state tax revenue shortfall.