2nd teacher group backs lottery idea

By MARSHA SHULER  
Capitol news bureau

Gov. Edwin Edwards gained support Wednesday for his idea of a lottery to raise money for education from a second teacher organization -- the Louisiana Federation of Teachers.

However, the LFT -- like the Louisiana Association of Educators -- did not formally endorse the governor's plan, preferring to wait and see the "exact amount and nature of the plan, preferring to wait and see the..."

Gov. Edwin Edwards gained support Wednesday for his idea of a lottery to raise money for education from a second teacher organization -- the Louisiana Federation of Teachers.

Support

CONTINUED FROM 1A

time.

Moreland said Edwards has no public appearances scheduled for the rest of the week. He said the governor will meet with various legislative lobbying groups in private mansion meetings in the days to come.

Moreland said the governor is getting a lot of calls and letters registering support for his proposal.

"There's a lot of support for it," he said.

Meanwhile, another church group, representing some 150,000 Louisiana citizens, pledged to fight both gambling proposals. The group plans to launch a major letter-writing campaign aimed at state legislators.

Unit Methodist Church Bishop Walter Underwood said:

"We intend to generate 10,000 letters from United Methodists to representatives and senators."

"As the bishop I will give my complete influence, effort, time and energy to defeating both casino gambling and the state lottery," he said.

Underwood called it "an inappropriate way to produce revenues for citizens. Beyond the ethical and moral reasons, it just doesn't work," Underwood said.

Meanwhile, other groups that have been intensively lobbying the governor and the Legislature for more funding for state employee pay raises and additional aid to local governments have not come up with formal positions as yet.

But, representatives of the Louisiana Municipal Association and the Louisiana Police Jury Association note the proposal has nothing in it for the state's financially ailing cities and parishes.

"We noted in the governor's remarks that nothing is provided for direct funding to local government," said Jim Percy, deputy director and staff attorney for the LMA.

Percy said the LMA is polling its members on the question of the lottery. "This is a very expensive project for the state's elderly," said Jim Percy, deputy director and staff attorney for the LMA.

Meanwhile, other groups that have been intensively lobbying the governor and the Legislature for more funding for state employee pay raises and additional aid to local governments have not come up with formal positions as yet.

But, representatives of the Louisiana Municipal Association and the Louisiana Police Jury Association note the proposal has nothing in it for the state's financially ailing cities and parishes.

"We noted in the governor's remarks that nothing is provided for direct funding to local government," said Jim Percy, deputy director and staff attorney for the LMA.

Percy said the LMA is polling its members on the question of the lottery. "This is a very expensive project for the state's elderly," said Jim Percy, deputy director and staff attorney for the LMA.

However, the LFT -- like the Louisiana Association of Educators -- did not formally endorse the governor's plan, preferring to wait and see the "exact amount and nature of the plan, preferring to wait and see the..."

"As the bishop I will give my complete influence, effort, time and energy to defeating both casino gambling and the state lottery," he said.

Underwood called it "an inappropriate way to produce revenues for citizens. Beyond the ethical and moral reasons, it just doesn't work," Underwood said.

Meanwhile, other groups that have been intensively lobbying the governor and the Legislature for more funding for state employee pay raises and additional aid to local governments have not come up with formal positions as yet.

But, representatives of the Louisiana Municipal Association and the Louisiana Police Jury Association note the proposal has nothing in it for the state's financially ailing cities and parishes.

"We noted in the governor's remarks that nothing is provided for direct funding to local government," said Jim Percy, deputy director and staff attorney for the LMA.

Percy said the LMA is polling its members on the question of the lottery. "This is a very expensive project for the state's elderly," said Jim Percy, deputy director and staff attorney for the LMA.

However, the LFT -- like the Louisiana Association of Educators -- did not formally endorse the governor's plan, preferring to wait and see the "exact amount and nature of the plan, preferring to wait and see the..."