

Swift, thorough inquiry into Lottery needed

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WEST VIRGINIA -- It was surprising enough to hear recently that West Virginia Lottery officials want more control over the state's programs to help problem gamblers overcome their addiction. Now more evidence has come forward to suggest that someone at the Lottery is pushing plans that would destroy the credibility of the state's efforts to help problem gamblers.

Gov. Joe Manchin said Wednesday that he supports state Lottery Director John Musgrave's request for a review into charges that the agency has improperly interfered with the program designed to help compulsive gamblers. This review is needed -- quickly and thoroughly.

The most serious allegations have been made by Mia Moran-Cooper, who was fired by the Problem Gamblers Help Network on Thursday. On Wednesday, she began providing e-mails to lawmakers. Those messages appear to substantiate some of her claims.