



Attorney General Doug Peterson

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Nebraska Joins Arkansas and Texas in Coalition to Reclaim Money

Lincoln—Attorney General Doug Peterson has joined Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton today in a group of 21 states in an original action filing in the U.S. Supreme Court against the State of Delaware. At a minimum, Delaware has approximately \$200 million that rightfully belongs to its sister states under the federal Disposition of Abandoned Money Orders and Traveler’s Checks Act. The ultimate dollar figure that Delaware owes other states may be much higher.

The dispute between the 21 plaintiff states and Delaware is about which state is entitled to abandoned and unclaimed “official checks” sold by MoneyGram, a money transfer services company that operates in all 50 states and internationally. With Delaware’s acquiescence, guidance and direction, millions of dollars in unclaimed “official checks” have been wrongfully escheated, or turned over, to the State of Delaware. This error was based on the mistaken belief that such abandoned and unclaimed property is supposed to be turned over to the issuing company’s state of incorporation, in this case Delaware. Federal law and the law in each of the plaintiff states is clear that such abandoned and unclaimed property should be turned over to the state where the property was purchased.

The coalition is asking the Supreme Court to declare that the plaintiff states, and not Delaware, are entitled to the hundreds of millions of dollars improperly turned over to Delaware and to all future similar abandoned and unclaimed

property. The coalition is also asking the Court to order the appropriate repayment to plaintiff states by Delaware.

“I applaud the efforts of Attorney General Peterson and the 20 other states to force Delaware to turn over unclaimed property that rightfully belongs to Nebraskans. We estimate that approximately \$1.8 million is owed to Nebraskans in this case,” stated Nebraska State Treasurer Don Stenberg.

On Feb. 10, 2015, an independent auditor completed an examination of abandoned “official checks” from MoneyGram in a select group of states and concluded that nearly \$200 million was owed to those states. The State of Nebraska is owed approximately \$1.8 million in unclaimed “official checks.”

Joining Nebraska in today’s filing are Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and West Virginia.

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