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# Lottery commissioner to take CMU position

By Kathy Barks Hoffman

The Associated Press

**LANSING** — State lottery commissioner

Gary Peters will step down Aug. 10 to take a public policy spot at Central Michigan University, state officials announced.

Peters, 48, was appointed lottery commissioner by Gov. Jennifer Granholm on April 9, 2003. This fall, he will become the third person to hold the Griffin Endowed Chair in American Government at CMU in Mount Pleasant.

Peters, a Democratic state senator from 1995-2002, also has said he's considering a 2008 run against Republican U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg of Oakland County. He has been approached by Democrat activists and officials and asked to "take a serious look" at the race, he has said.

A resident of Bloomfield Hills, Peters became lottery commissioner after running unsuccessfully for attorney general in 2002. Before joining the Senate, he was an executive with UBS PaineWebber Inc. and Merrill

Lynch Inc.

When Peters joined the Lottery Bureau, lottery revenues were in a four-year slump and earnings had declined by nearly \$50 million a year. Since then, annual sales have increased from \$1.7 billion to more than \$2.3 billion. The bureau is on track to add \$720 million to the state school aid fund this fiscal year, the highest amount ever.



Peters

Granholm spokeswoman Liz Boyd said Monday work would begin on finding a replacement, "but we have some time because he's given us ample notice."

Peters holds a bachelor's degree from Alma College, a master of business administration degree from the University of Detroit Mercy and a law degree from Wayne State University Law School. He's working on a doctoral degree in political philosophy at Michigan State University.