

Missouri State Highway Patrol

The Gaming Division is staffed with 108 members and two civilians. Under the command of Captain Lester D. Elder, the division is divided into three primary units: Administrative Services, Investigations and Enforcement. The Administrative Services Section oversees the collection and preservation of evidence and motor equipment fleet management. The Investigative Unit conducts comprehensive background investigations of individuals, companies and suppliers applying for licensure with the Missouri Gaming Commission. There are 6 Class A (parent company) licensees, 12 Class B (riverboat) licensees, 18 supplier companies and 12,107 active occupational licensees, all of which require some level of investigative and regulatory oversight by Patrol members. The section also features a specialized unit, which is responsible for criminal and regulatory enforcement related to charitable game operations and licensure in Missouri. The Charitable Games Section oversees 384 licensed bingo operators and is also charged with conducting background investigations on both charitable gaming and riverboat supplier companies. Officers assigned to the enforcement unit are responsible for enforcing both Missouri criminal statutes and Missouri Gaming Commission regulations on the 12 licensed casino properties. During FY 2008 members assigned to the enforcement unit conducted 1682 criminal investigations, made 1677 arrests, conducted 647 regulatory investigations and contributed 475 pieces of intelligence into the MoSPIN intelligence network. Officers assigned to the Gaming Division processed 1241 disassociated persons (problem gamblers) and handled hundreds of other regulatory matters, for which the Highway Patrol is responsible.

Licensing

The Missouri Gaming Commission has statutory responsibility for licensing excursion gambling boats, their parent companies, suppliers of gaming equipment, and the officers, directors, trustees, proprietors, managing agents, and general managers thereof, as well as all employees participating in gaming operations within the state in any capacity. Licensing staff currently administers the licensing and annual license renewal processes of twelve excursion gambling boats, six parent companies, twenty-five supplier licensees and applicants, twelve liquor licensees, and more than 12,100 occupational licensees.

An enhanced statewide automated licensing system became operational in September 2007 providing a vehicle through which each casino's human resources department can enter occupational licensee applicant data and submit license renewals via a web-based link. The system facilitates the commission's ability to license and track all entity and occupational licenses, as well as generate monthly invoices for fees associated with applications, licenses issued, duplicate licenses, and renewals. Licensing fees generated in excess of \$1.75 million in FY-2008, while background investigations conducted on licensees resulted in approximately \$1 million in reimbursable expenses.

Policy & Legislation

The upcoming year provides many uncertainties relating to possible legislation and regulatory changes that could result from the passage of the proposed initiative petition. The Commission will be addressing changes necessary to deal with changes resulting from the petition or alternatively to deal with possible legislative proposals resulting from the failure of the initiative petition or modifications thereto. The Commission will also work closely with the legislature on possible changes relating to bingo. The Commission expects to have a vigorous regulatory agenda including updating regulations relating to horse racing, cashless wagering, liquor licensing and establishing guidelines for future disciplines. In addition, there are two potential changes in admissions procedures and tax collection procedures that could result from the success of the initiative ballot measure.