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State of Misconsin 1995 - 1996 LEGISLATURE

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ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 34, TO ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1, TO 1995 ASSEMBLY BILL 150

June 21, 1995 - Offered by Representatives Wood, Huber and Krusick.

- At the locations indicated, amend the substitute amendment as follows:
- **1.** Page 50, line 5: delete lines 5 to 13.
 - 2. Page 173, line 9: decrease the dollar amount for fiscal year 1996–97 by \$2,204,100 for the purpose of decreasing the authorized FTE positions for the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection by 43.8 GPR positions on July 1, 1996, for the performance of consumer protection investigation and enforcement functions, and adjust the net appropriation totals accordingly.
 - **3.** Page 174, line 1: decrease the dollar amount for fiscal year 1996–97 by \$94,200 to decrease funding for unfair sales act enforcement functions being transferred to the department of justice.
 - **4.** Page 283, line 3: increase the dollar amount for fiscal year 1996–97 by \$1,687,078 for the purpose of increasing the authorized FTE positions for the department of justice by 32.6 GPR positions on July 1, 1996, for the performance of consumer protection investigation and enforcement functions.

5. Page 285, line 24: after that line insert:

2 "(rz) Unfair sales act

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94,200".

- **6.** Page 342, line 12: after that line insert:
- 4 "Section 476t. 20.115 (1) (r) of the statutes is renumbered 20.455 (2) (rz).".
 - **7.** Page 345, line 13: delete "(m), (r)" and substitute "(m), (r)".
 - **8.** Page 1216, line 18: delete "(m), (r)" and substitute "(m), (r)".
 - **9.** Page 1221, line 18: delete the material beginning with that line and ending with page 1222, line 5, and substitute:
 - **"Section 3601h.** 100.18 (11) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:
 - 100.18 (11) (a) The department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection justice shall enforce this section. Actions to enjoin violation of this section or any regulations thereunder may be commenced and prosecuted by the department of justice in the name of the state in any court having equity jurisdiction. This remedy is not exclusive.
 - **Section 3601i.** 100.18 (11) (b) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:
 - 100.18 (11) (b) 1. The department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection may request that the department of justice <u>may</u> commence an action to enjoin a violation of this section, in which event the latter department shall proceed with the requested action within a reasonable period of time or provide the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection with a brief statement of its reasons for not proceeding. The department of justice shall further provide the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection with periodic summaries of all activity under this section.
 - **Section 3601j.** 100.18 (11) (c) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

100.18 (11) (c) 1. Whenever the department of justice has reason to believe that a person is in possession, custody or control of any information or documentary material relevant to the enforcement of this section it may require that person to submit a statement or report, under oath or otherwise, as to the facts and circumstances concerning any activity in the course of trade or commerce; examine under oath that person with respect to any activity in the course of trade or commerce; and execute in writing and cause to be served upon such person a civil investigative demand requiring the person to produce any relevant documentary material for inspection and copying.

Section 3601k. 100.18 (11) (c) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

100.18 (11) (c) 2. The department of justice, in exercising powers under this subsection, may issue subpoenas, administer oaths and conduct hearings to aid in any investigation.

Section 3601L. 100.18 (11) (c) 3. of the statutes is amended to read:

100.18 (11) (c) 3. Service of any notice by the department of justice requiring a person to file a statement or report, or service of a subpoena upon a person, or service of a civil investigative demand shall be made in compliance with the rules of civil procedure of this state.

Section 3601mm. 100.18 (11) (c) 4. of the statutes is amended to read:

100.18 (11) (c) 4. If a person fails to file any statement or report, or fails to comply with any civil investigative demand, or fails to obey any subpoena issued by the department of justice, such person may be coerced as provided in s. 885.12, except that no person shall be required to furnish any testimony or evidence under this subsection which might tend to incriminate the person.

SECTION 3601n. 100.18 (11) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

100.18 (11) (d) The department or the department of justice or any district attorney, upon informing the department of justice, may commence an action in circuit court in the name of the state to restrain by temporary or permanent injunction any violation of this section. The court may in its discretion, prior to entry of final judgment, make such orders or judgments as may be necessary to restore to any person any pecuniary loss suffered because of the acts or practices involved in the action, provided proof thereof is submitted to the satisfaction of the court. The department of justice may subpoena persons, and require the production of books and other documents, and may request the department to exercise its authority under par. (c) to aid in the investigation of alleged violations of this section.

Section 3601nm. 100.18 (11) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:

100.18 (11) (e) In lieu of instituting or continuing an action pursuant to this section, the department or the department of justice may accept a written assurance of discontinuance of any act or practice alleged to be a violation of this section from the person who has engaged in such act or practice. The acceptance of such assurance by either the department or the department of justice shall be deemed acceptance by the other state officials enumerated in par. (d) if the terms of the assurance so provide. An assurance entered into pursuant to this section shall not be considered evidence of a violation of this section, provided that violation of such an assurance shall be treated as a violation of this section, and shall be subjected to all the penalties and remedies provided therefor.".

- **10.** Page 1222, line 6: delete lines 6 to 22.
- 11. Page 1222, line 22: after that line insert:
- "Section 3601u. 100.20(2) of the statutes is amended to read:

100.20 (2) The department of justice, after public hearing, may issue general orders forbidding methods of competition in business or trade practices in business which are determined by the department of justice to be unfair. The department of justice, after public hearing, may issue general orders prescribing methods of competition in business or trade practices in business which are determined by the department of justice to be fair.

Section 3601v. 100.20 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

100.20 (3) The department of justice, after public hearing, may issue a special order against any person, enjoining such person from employing any method of competition in business or trade practice in business which is determined by the department of justice to be unfair or from providing service in violation of sub. (1t). The department of justice, after public hearing, may issue a special order against any person, requiring such person to employ the method of competition in business or trade practice in business which is determined by the department of justice to be fair.

Section 3601w. 100.20 (4) of the statutes is repealed.

Section 3601x. 100.20 (6) of the statutes is amended to read:

100.20 **(6)** The department of justice may commence an action in circuit court in the name of the state to restrain by temporary or permanent injunction the violation of any order issued under this section. The court may in its discretion, prior to entry of final judgment make such orders or judgments as may be necessary to restore to any person any pecuniary loss suffered because of the acts or practices involved in the action, provided proof thereof is submitted to the satisfaction of the court. The department of justice may use its authority in ss. 93.14 and 93.15 to investigate violations of any order issued under this section."

12. Page 1228, line 4: before that line insert:

"Section 3608s. 100.30 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

100.30 **(4)** Penalties. For any violation of sub. (3), the department of justice or a district attorney may commence an action on behalf of the state to recover a forfeiture of not less than \$50 nor more than \$500 for the first violation and not less than \$200 nor more than \$2,500 for each subsequent violation.

Section 3608t. 100.30 (5) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

100.30 (5) (a) The department of justice may issue a special order as provided in s. 93.18 against a retailer or wholesaler requiring the retailer or wholesaler to cease and desist from violating this section in the sale of cigarettes or other tobacco products, fermented malt beverages, intoxicating liquor or wine or motor vehicle fuel. The department of justice or a district attorney may commence an action on behalf of the state against a retailer or wholesaler who violates a special order issued under this paragraph to recover a forfeiture of not less than \$200 nor more than \$5,000 for each violation.

Section 3608u. 100.30 (5) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

100.30 **(5)** (b) The department of justice or a district attorney may bring an action to enjoin a violation of this section without being compelled to allege or prove that an adequate remedy at law does not exist. An action under this paragraph may be commenced and prosecuted by the department of justice or a district attorney, in the name of the state, in a circuit court in the county where the offense occurred or in Dane county, notwithstanding s. 801.50.".

- **13.** Page 1228, line 4: delete lines 4 to 7.
- **14.** Page 1424, line 7: before that line insert:

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"Section 4148x. 136.04 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

136.04 (2) The department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection justice after public hearing may issue general or special orders to carry out the purposes of this chapter and to determine and prohibit unfair trade practices in business or unfair methods of competition in business pursuant to s. 100.20 (2) to (4) and (3)."

- **15.** Page 2266, line 14: before that line insert:
- "(6x) Transfer of Consumer Protection Function.
- (a) Assets and liabilities. On the effective date of this paragraph, all assets and liabilities of the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection primarily related to its consumer protection investigation and enforcement functions under sections 100.18, 100.20 and 100.30 of the statutes shall become the assets and liabilities of the department of justice. The departments of justice and agriculture, trade and consumer protection shall jointly determine these assets and liabilities and shall jointly develop and implement a plan for the orderly transfer thereof. In the event of any disagreement between the departments, the secretary of administration shall decide the question.
- (b) *Employe transfers*. All incumbents holding positions in the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection that are primarily related to its consumer protection investigation and enforcement functions under sections 100.18, 100.20 and 100.30 of the statutes, as determined by the secretary of administration, are transferred on the effective date of this paragraph to the department of justice.
- (c) *Employe status*. Employes transferred under paragraph (b) have all the rights and the same status under subchapter V of chapter 111 and chapter 230 of the

statutes in the department of justice that they enjoyed in the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection immediately before the transfer. Notwithstanding section 230.28 (4) of the statutes, no employe so transferred who has attained permanent status in class is required to serve a probationary period.

- (d) Supplies and equipment. On the effective date of this paragraph, all tangible personal property, including records, of the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection primarily related to its consumer protection investigation and enforcement functions under sections 100.18, 100.20 and 100.30 of the statutes are transferred to the department of justice. The departments of justice and agriculture, trade and consumer protection shall jointly identify the tangible personal property, including records, and shall jointly develop and implement a plan for the orderly transfer thereof. In the event of any disagreement between the departments, the secretary of administration shall decide the question.
- (e) *Pending matters*. Any matter pending with the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection on the effective date of this paragraph that is primarily related to its consumer protection investigation and enforcement functions under sections 100.18, 100.20 and 100.30 of the statutes is transferred to the department of justice. All materials submitted or actions taken by the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection with respect to the pending matter are considered as having been submitted to or taken by the department of justice.
- (f) *Contracts*. All contracts entered into by the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection in effect on the effective date of this paragraph that are primarily related to its consumer protection investigation and enforcement functions under sections 100.18, 100.20 and 100.30 of the statutes remain in effect

and are transferred to the department of justice. The departments of justice and agriculture, trade and consumer protection shall jointly identify these contracts and shall jointly develop and implement a plan for the orderly transfer thereof. In the event of any disagreement between the departments, the secretary of administration shall decide the question. The department of justice shall carry out any such contractual obligations until modified or rescinded by the department of justice to the extent allowed under the contract.

(g) Rules and orders. All rules promulgated by the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection that are in effect on the effective date of this paragraph and that are primarily related to its consumer protection investigation and enforcement functions under sections 100.18, 100.20 and 100.30 of the statutes remain in effect until their specified expiration date or until amended or repealed by the department of justice. All orders issued by the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection that are in effect on the effective date of this paragraph and that are primarily related to its consumer protection investigation and enforcement functions under sections 100.18, 100.20 and 100.30 of the statutes remain in effect until their specified expiration date or until modified or rescinded by the department of justice."

16. Page 2455, line 16: after that line insert:

"(6x) Transfer of Certain Consumer Protection Functions. The treatment of sections 100.18 (11) (a), (b) 1., (c) 1., 2., 3. and 4., (d) and (e), 100.20 (2), (3), (4) and (6), 100.30 (4) and (5) (a) and (b) and 136.04 (2) of the statutes, the renumbering of

- section 20.115 (1) (r) of the statutes and Section 9104 (6x) of this act take effect on
- 2 July 1, 1996.".

3 (END)