

CHAPTER 564

CRANE GAMES

564.02 Offering crane games for play; registration.

Cross-reference: See definitions in s. 561.01.

564.02 Offering crane games for play; registration.

(1) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(a) “Crane game” means an amusement device involving skill, if it rewards the player exclusively with merchandise contained within the amusement device proper and limited to prizes, toys and novelties, each having a wholesale value which is not more than 7 times the cost charged to play the amusement device once or \$5, whichever is less.

(ac) “Department” means the department of administration.

(ag) “Division of gaming” means the division of gaming in the department.

(am) “Set up for the purposes of play” means offer a person, for consideration, an opportunity to play a crane game from which the proceeds will be collected by a person other than the player.

(b) “Skill” means, within an opportunity provided for all players fairly to obtain prizes or rewards of merchandise, a player’s precision, dexterity or ability to use his or her knowledge which enables him or her to obtain more frequent rewards or prizes than does another less precise, dextrous or knowledgeable player.

(1m) The department may do any of the following:

(a) Provide all of the security services for the crane game operations under this chapter.

(b) Monitor the regulatory compliance of crane game operations under this chapter.

(c) Audit the crane game operations under this chapter.

(d) Investigate suspected violations of this chapter.

(e) Report suspected gaming–related criminal activity to the division of criminal investigation in the department of justice for investigation by that division.

(f) If the division of criminal investigation in the department of justice chooses not to investigate a report under par. (e), coordinate an investigation of the suspected criminal activity with local law enforcement officials and district attorneys.

(2) REGISTRATION REQUIRED; FEE. (a) No person in this state who owns a crane game may set up for the purposes of play, permit a crane game to be set up for the purposes of play or collect the proceeds of a crane game which is set up for the purposes of play unless the person is registered by the department and unless an identification number issued by the department is affixed to each such crane game owned by the person.

(b) Every person specified under par. (a) shall file with the department, on application forms prescribed by the department and signed by the person, all of the following information:

1. The name and address of the person.

2. The location of each crane game which the person intends to set up for the purposes of play or to permit to be set up for the purposes of play.

(c) A nonrefundable fee of \$120 per crane game to which the conditions of par. (b) apply shall accompany the application under par. (b).

(d) Upon receipt of the application and fee under pars. (b) and (c), the department shall, if the department considers the applicant qualified, issue a certificate of registration for the applicant and an

identification number for each crane game for which registration is requested.

(e) The registration issued under par. (d) shall remain in effect unless it is canceled by the department with the advice and consent of the department of justice or unless it is withdrawn by the registered person.

(f) Every person registered under this section shall notify the department of any change in the information required to be furnished by the person under par. (b), within 10 days following the change.

(g) The department shall credit all moneys received by the department under this subsection to the appropriation account under s. 20.505 (8) (j).

(2m) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST. No employee in the division of gaming who performs any duty related to crane games or the executive assistant or the secretary or deputy secretary of administration and no member of such a person’s immediate family, as defined in s. 19.42 (7), may, while that person is employed in such a capacity or for 2 years following the termination of his or her employment with the department, do any of the following:

(a) Have any direct or indirect interest in any person who is registered or required to be registered under sub. (2).

(b) Accept or agree to accept money or any thing of value from any person who is registered or required to be registered under sub. (2).

(3) INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT. (a) In response to a written complaint, the department of justice shall conduct an investigation of any person registered under sub. (2) (d). The department of justice may conduct an inspection of a person registered under sub. (2) (d), of the crane game registered to the person or of the premises on which the crane game is played, at any time.

(am) The department of justice may conduct an investigation to determine if a person who owns a crane game sets up for the purposes of play, permits a crane game to be set up for the purposes of play or collects the proceeds of a crane game which is set up for the purposes of play without being registered under sub. (2) (a).

(b) An action for violation of this section may be prosecuted in any circuit court of this state by the attorney general in the name of the state and, in any such action, the attorney general shall exercise all of the powers and perform all duties which the district attorney would otherwise be authorized to exercise or perform.

(c) The department shall reimburse the department of justice for the services of the department of justice under this subsection.

(4) SEIZURE AND SALE. The department of justice may seize any crane game owned by a person who is convicted under sub. (5) and may sell the crane game in the name of the state. The department of justice and its agents are exempt from all liability to the owner of the crane game for the seizure or sale of the crane game. The department shall reimburse the department of justice for the services of the department of justice under this subsection.

(5) PENALTY. Any person who violates this section may be required to forfeit not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000 for each offense. Each day of continued violation constitutes a separate offense. The period shall be measured by using the dates of the offenses which resulted in convictions.

History: 1987 a. 329; 1987 a. 403 s. 181; Stats. 1987 s. 440.85; 1991 a. 269 ss. 1095i, 1110f; Stats. 1991 s. 564.02; 1995 a. 27 ss. 6977, 9123 (6pp); 1997 a. 27.