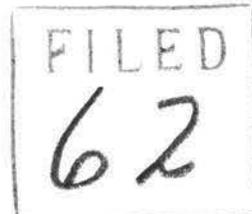


LIQUOR CONTROL:
BONDS:

Agents, assistants, deputies and inspectors of the Department of Liquor Control may be bonded under a blanket bond in the sum of \$5,000.00 for each agent, assistant, deputy and inspector.

OPINION NO. 62

January 19, 1965



Mr. John Vaughn
State Comptroller
State Capitol Building
Jefferson City, Missouri

Dear Mr. Vaughn:

You have informed this office that the agents of the Department of Liquor Control have individual bonds for the faithful performance of their duties and the safekeeping and accounting of money and property received by them. You have further informed us that a substantial amount of money could be saved by the state by the purchase of a blanket bond to cover all said liquor agents. You requested our opinion as to whether or not the state would be authorized to purchase a blanket bond to cover all agents of Liquor Control.

The agents, assistants, deputies and inspectors of the Department of Liquor Control are required to give bond in the sum of \$5,000.00 for the faithful performance of their duties and for safely keeping an accounting of moneys and property received by them under Section 311.620, subsection 3, RSMo. The pertinent part of the statute reads as follows:

"The agents, assistants, deputies and inspectors * * * shall each give bond to be approved by the supervisor of liquor control for faithful performance of the duties of their respective offices and to safely keep and account for all moneys and property received by them. This bond shall be in the sum of five thousand dollars, and the cost of furnishing all such bonds shall be paid by the state."

While the statute requires that each agent, assistant, deputy and inspector give bond in the sum of \$5,000.00 and -

that the state pay for the cost of such bond, the use of the term "each" does not necessarily require the giving of an individual bond by each agent. The purpose of the statute is to protect the money and property coming into the hands of the agents and to guarantee faithful performance of their duties. This purpose may be achieved equally well by a blanket bond covering all agents if said bond provides coverage for each agent individually in the sum of \$5,000.00. The fact that such blanket bond would cost the state less money than individual bonds further serves public policy and recommends the blanket bond in preference to individual bonds.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, it is the opinion of this office that agents, assistants, deputies and inspectors of the Department of Liquor Control may be bonded under a blanket bond in the sum of \$5,000.00 for each agent, assistant, deputy and inspector.

The foregoing opinion, which I hereby approve, was prepared by my Assistant, Jeremiah D. Finnegan.

Very truly yours,


NORMAN H. ANDERSON
Attorney General