

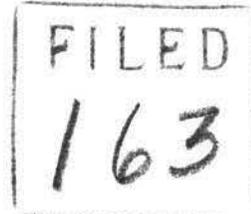
AUDITOR:
BONDS:

The state is authorized to purchase a blanket bond to cover all examiners of the Office of State Auditor, if such blanket bond covers each examiner individually in the sum of \$10,000.00.

OPINION NO. 163

March 30, 1965

Honorable Haskell Holman
State Auditor
Jefferson City, Missouri



Dear Mr. Holman:

Your recent request for an opinion asks whether the state is authorized to purchase a blanket bond to cover all examiners of the Office of State Auditor. The examiners presently have individual bonds.

It is noted that every examiner of the Office of State Auditor is required by Section 29.070 RSMo to give a faithful performance bond in the amount of \$10,000. The pertinent part of the statute reads as follows:

"* * * And every examiner shall enter into a bond, payable to the state of Missouri, in the sum of ten thousand dollars, to be approved by the state auditor and deposited in the office of the state treasurer conditioned that he will faithfully perform his duties as such examiner, * * *"

This office recently rendered Opinion No. 62 to Mr. John Vaughn on January 19, 1965. This opinion concluded that under a statute requiring the agents of the Department of Liquor Control to each be bonded in the sum of \$5,000.00, a blanket bond may be purchased by the Department of Liquor Control if the blanket bond covered each agent, individually in the sum of \$5,000.00.

The statute considered in Opinion No. 62 was Section 311.620, RSMo which provides:

"3. 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

Honorable Haskell Holman

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."

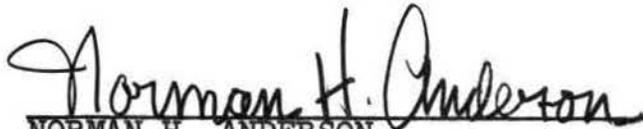
The similarity between this statute and Section 29.070 RSMo, supra, is readily apparent. Therefore, the reasons set forth in Opinion No. 62 apply equally well to Section 29.070, RSMo. The purpose of the statute is to guarantee the faithful performance of the examiner's duties and to further safeguard the public. This purpose may be achieved equally well by a blanket bond covering each examiner individually in the amount of \$10,000.00 as by individual bonds for each examiner. The fact that such blanket bond would cost the state less money than individual bonds (without a decrease in the coverage provided to the public) further serves public policy and recommends the blanket bond in preference to individual bonds.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, it is the opinion of this office that the state is authorized to purchase a blanket bond to cover all examiners of the Office of State Auditor, if such blanket bond covers each examiner individually in the sum of \$10,000.00.

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

Very truly yours,


NORMAN H. ANDERSON
Attorney General

JDF:bf

Enclosure