

## CHAPTER 297E

### GAMBLING TAXES

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#### 297E.01 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** Unless otherwise defined in this chapter, or unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the terms used in this chapter have the meaning given them in chapter 349. The definitions in this section are for tax administration purposes and apply to this chapter.

Subd. 2. **Bingo.** For purposes of this chapter "bingo" means the game of bingo as defined in section 349.12, subdivision 4, and as conducted under chapter 349, and any other game that is substantially the same as or similar to that game, including but not limited to a game where:

(1) players pay compensation for a game sheet, card, or paper that has spaces arranged on it in columns and rows containing printed numbers or figures, or that has spaces in which players are allowed to place their own numbers or figures, or for an electronic, mechanical, or other facsimile of such sheets, cards, or paper;

(2) numbers or figures are randomly selected for comparison with the numbers or figures on each game sheet, card, paper, or facsimile;

(3) game winners are those who have a game sheet, card, paper, or facsimile with some or all of the randomly selected numbers or figures displayed thereon, in the same pattern or arrangement that has been previously designated or understood to be a winning pattern or arrangement for the game; and

(4) game winners receive or are eligible to receive a prize such as money, property, or other reward or benefit.

Subd. 3. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of revenue or a person to whom the commissioner has delegated functions.

Subd. 4. **Contraband.** For purposes of this chapter, "contraband" means all of the items listed in section 349.2125, and all pull-tab or tipboard deals or portions of deals on which the tax imposed under section 297E.02 has not been paid.

Subd. 5. **Distributor.** "Distributor" means a distributor as defined in section 349.12, subdivision 11, or a person who markets, sells, or provides gambling product to a person or entity for resale or use at the retail level.

Subd. 6. **Fiscal year.** "Fiscal year" means the period from July 1 to June 30.

Subd. 7. **Gambling product.** "Gambling product" means bingo cards, paper, or sheets; pull-tabs; tipboards; paddletickets and paddleticket cards; raffle tickets; or any other ticket, card, board, placard, device, or token that represents a chance, for which consideration is paid, to win a prize.

Subd. 8. **Gross receipts.** "Gross receipts" means all receipts derived from lawful gambling activity including, but not limited to, the following items:

(1) gross sales of bingo hard cards and paper sheets before reduction for prizes, expenses, shortages, free plays, or any other charges or offsets;

(2) the ideal gross of pull-tab and tipboard deals or games less the value of unsold and defective tickets and before reduction for prizes, expenses, shortages, free plays, or any other charges or offsets;

(3) gross sales of raffle tickets and paddle tickets before reduction for prizes, expenses, shortages, free plays, or any other charges or offsets;

(4) admission, commission, cover, or other charges imposed on participants in lawful gambling activity as a condition for or cost of participation; and

(5) interest, dividends, annuities, profit from transactions, or other income derived from the accumulation or use of gambling proceeds.

Gross receipts does not include proceeds from rental under section 349.164 or 349.18, subdivision 3.

Subd. 9. **Ideal gross.** "Ideal gross" means the total amount of receipts, that would be received if every individual ticket in the pull-tab or tipboard deal was sold at its face value. In the calculation of ideal gross and prizes, a free play ticket shall be valued at face value.

Subd. 10. **Manufacturer.** "Manufacturer" means a manufacturer as defined in section 349.12, subdivision 26, or a person or entity who:

(1) assembles from raw materials, or from subparts or other components, a completed item of gambling product for resale, use, or receipt in Minnesota; or

(2) sells, furnishes, ships, or imports completed gambling product from outside Minnesota for resale, use, receipt, or storage in Minnesota; or

(3) being within the state, assembles, produces, or otherwise creates gambling products.

Subd. 11. **Prize.** "Prize" means a thing of value, other than a free play, offered or awarded to the winner of a gambling game.

Subd. 12. **Pull-tab.** "Pull-tab" is a pull-tab as defined in section 349.12, subdivision 32, or any other gambling ticket or device that is substantially the same as or similar to such a pull-tab, including but not limited to, a ticket or card that:

(1) has one or more concealed numbers, figures, or symbols, or combination thereof, printed on it;

(2) may be used in games where the player knows in advance, or can determine in advance, what the predesignated winning numbers, figures, symbols, or combinations are; and

(3) may be played by revealing the concealed ticket information and comparing that information with the predesignated winning numbers, figures, symbols, or combinations in order to determine a winner.

Subd. 13. **Raffle.** "Raffle" means a raffle as defined in section 349.12, subdivision 33, and any other game that is played in a manner substantially similar to the play of such a raffle, including but not limited to raffles in which compensation is paid for the chance to win a thing of value, the chance is evidenced by a ticket, card, token, or equivalent item, and the winner is selected by random drawing.

Subd. 14. **Retail level.** "Retail level" means an activity where gambling product is sold to players or participants in gambling games and where the players or participants give consideration for a chance to win a prize.

Subd. 15. **Taxpayer.** "Taxpayer" means a person subject to or liable for a tax imposed by this chapter, a person required to file reports or returns with the commissioner under this chapter, a person required to keep or retain records under this chapter, or a person required by this chapter to obtain or hold a permit.

Subd. 16. **Ticket.** "Ticket" means a valid token, card, or other tangible voucher, other than bingo cards, sheets, or paper, that grants the holder a chance or chances to participate in a game of gambling.

Subd. 17. **Tipboard.** "Tipboard" means a tipboard as defined in section 349.12, subdivision 34, and any game that is substantially the same as or similar to the game of tipboards authorized under chapter 349, including but not limited to any of the following games:

(1) a game that consists of one or more boards, placards, or other devices in which (i) the board, placard, or other device has been marked off into a grid or columns in which each section represents a chance to win a prize, (ii) participants pay a consideration to select a section or sections, (iii) all or some of the winning numbers, figures, symbols, or other winning criteria for the game are concealed or otherwise not known by the player at the time the player obtains a chance in the game, and (iv) the numbers, figures, symbols, or other criteria for winning the game are later revealed for comparison with the information on the board, placard, or other device in order to determine a winner;

(2) a game that consists of one or more boards, placards, or other devices that (i) have tickets attached to or otherwise associated with them, and that have one or more concealed numbers, figures, or combination thereof on the tickets; (ii) participants pay a consideration to obtain the tickets, (iii) all or some of the winning numbers, figures, symbols, or other winning criteria for the game are concealed or otherwise not known by the player at the time the player obtains a chance in the game, and (iv) the numbers, figures, symbols, or other criteria for winning the game are later revealed for comparison with the information on the game tickets in order to determine a winner; or

(3) a game that consists of a deal or set of tickets that (i) have one or more concealed numbers, figures, or symbols, or combination thereof, on the tickets, (ii) participants pay a consideration to obtain the tickets, (iii) all or some of the winning numbers, figures, symbols, or combination thereof, are concealed or otherwise not known to the player at the time the player obtains the ticket, and (iv) the tickets are used in games where the numbers, figures, symbols, or other winning criteria are later revealed for comparison with the information on the game tickets in order to determine a winner.

"Tipboards" includes any game otherwise described in this subdivision in which the winning chances are determined in whole or in part by the outcome of one or more sporting events. "Tipboard" does not include boards, placards, tickets, or other devices lawfully used in connection with the operation of the state lottery under chapter 349A or the lawful conduct of pari-mutuel betting on horse racing under chapter 240.

Subd. 17a. **Business day.** "Business day" means Monday through Friday, excluding any holidays as defined in section 645.44.

Subd. 18. **Other words.** Unless specifically defined in this chapter, or unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the words used in this chapter have the meanings given them in chapter 349.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 1; 1999 c 243 art 7 s 4

## 297E.02 TAX IMPOSED.

Subdivision 1. **Imposition.** A tax is imposed on all lawful gambling other than (1) pull-tab deals or games; (2) tipboard deals or games; and (3) items listed in section 297E.01, subdivision 8, clauses (4) and (5), at the rate of 8.5 percent on the gross receipts as defined in section 297E.01, subdivision 8, less prizes actually paid. The tax imposed by this subdivision is in lieu of the tax imposed by section 297A.02 and all local taxes and license fees except a fee authorized under section 349.16, subdivision 8, or a tax authorized under subdivision 5.

The tax imposed under this subdivision is payable by the organization or party conducting, directly or indirectly, the gambling.

Subd. 2. **Tax-exempt gambling.** An organization's receipts from lawful gambling that are excluded or exempt from licensing under section 349.166, are not subject to the tax imposed by this section or section 297A.02. This exclusion from tax is only valid

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if at the time of the event giving rise to the tax the organization either has an exclusion under section 349.166, subdivision 1, or has applied for and received a valid exemption from the lawful gambling control board.

Subd. 2a. **Tax credit for certain raffles.** An organization may claim a credit equal to the tax reported under subdivision 1 resulting from a raffle the net proceeds of which have been used exclusively for the purposes of section 349.12, subdivision 25, paragraph (a), clause (2). The organization claiming the credit must do so on the monthly gambling tax return on which the raffle activity is reported under subdivision 1.

Subd. 3. **Collection; disposition.** Taxes imposed by this section other than in subdivision 4 are due and payable to the commissioner when the gambling tax return is required to be filed. Taxes imposed by subdivision 4 are due and payable to the commissioner on or before the last business day of the month following the month in which the taxable sale was made. Returns covering the taxes imposed under this section must be filed with the commissioner on or before the 20th day of the month following the close of the previous calendar month. The commissioner may require that the returns be filed via magnetic media or electronic data transfer. The proceeds, along with the revenue received from all license fees and other fees under sections 349.11 to 349.191, 349.211, and 349.213, must be paid to the state treasurer for deposit in the general fund.

Subd. 4. **Pull-tab and tipboard tax.** (a) A tax is imposed on the sale of each deal of pull-tabs and tipboards sold by a distributor. The rate of the tax is 1.7 percent of the ideal gross of the pull-tab or tipboard deal. The sales tax imposed by chapter 297A on the sale of the pull-tabs and tipboards by the distributor is imposed on the retail sales price less the tax imposed by this subdivision. The retail sale of pull-tabs or tipboards by the organization is exempt from taxes imposed by chapter 297A and is exempt from all local taxes and license fees except a fee authorized under section 349.16, subdivision 8.

(b) The liability for the tax imposed by this section is incurred when the pull-tabs and tipboards are delivered by the distributor to the customer or to a common or contract carrier for delivery to the customer, or when received by the customer's authorized representative at the distributor's place of business, regardless of the distributor's method of accounting or the terms of the sale.

The tax imposed by this subdivision is imposed on all sales of pull-tabs and tipboards, except the following:

(1) sales to the governing body of an Indian tribal organization for use on an Indian reservation;

(2) sales to distributors licensed under the laws of another state or of a province of Canada, as long as all statutory and regulatory requirements are met in the other state or province;

(3) sales of promotional tickets as defined in section 349.12; and

(4) pull-tabs and tipboards sold to an organization that sells pull-tabs and tipboards under the exemption from licensing in section 349.166, subdivision 2. A distributor shall require an organization conducting exempt gambling to show proof of its exempt status before making a tax-exempt sale of pull-tabs or tipboards to the organization. A distributor shall identify, on all reports submitted to the commissioner, all sales of pull-tabs and tipboards that are exempt from tax under this subdivision.

(c) A distributor having a liability of \$120,000 or more during a fiscal year ending June 30 must remit all liabilities in the subsequent calendar year by a funds transfer as defined in section 336.4A-104, paragraph (a). The funds transfer payment date, as defined in section 336.4A-401, must be on or before the date the tax is due. If the date the tax is due is not a funds transfer business day, as defined in section 336.4A-105, paragraph (a), clause (4), the payment date must be on or before the funds transfer business day next following the date the tax is due.

(d) Any customer who purchases deals of pull-tabs or tipboards from a distributor may file an annual claim for a refund or credit of taxes paid pursuant to this subdivision for unsold pull-tab and tipboard tickets. The claim must be filed with the commissioner on a form prescribed by the commissioner by March 20 of the year following the calendar year for which the refund is claimed. The refund must be filed as part of the customer's February monthly return. The refund or credit is equal to 1.7 percent of the face value of the unsold pull-tab or tipboard tickets, provided that the refund or credit will be 1.75 percent of the face value of the unsold pull-tab or tipboard tickets for claims for a refund or credit of taxes filed on the February 2001 monthly return. The refund claimed will be applied as a credit against tax owing under this chapter on the February monthly return. If the refund claimed exceeds the tax owing on the February monthly return, that amount will be refunded. The amount refunded will bear interest pursuant to section 270.76 from 90 days after the claim is filed.

Subd. 5. [Renumbered 349.213.subd 3]

Subd. 6. **Combined receipts tax.** In addition to the taxes imposed under subdivisions 1 and 4, a tax is imposed on the combined receipts of the organization. As used in this section, "combined receipts" is the sum of the organization's gross receipts from lawful gambling less gross receipts directly derived from the conduct of bingo, raffles, and paddlewheels, as defined in section 297E.01, subdivision 8, for the fiscal year. The combined receipts of an organization are subject to a tax computed according to the following schedule:

If the combined receipts for the fiscal year are:	The tax is:
Not over \$500,000	zero
Over \$500,000, but not over \$700,000	1.7 percent of the amount over \$500,000, but not over \$700,000
Over \$700,000, but not over \$900,000	\$3,400 plus 3.4 percent of the amount over \$700,000, but not over \$900,000
Over \$900,000	\$10,200 plus 5.1 percent of the amount over \$900,000

Subd. 7. **Untaxed gambling product.** (a) In addition to penalties or criminal sanctions imposed by this chapter, a person, organization, or business entity possessing or selling a pull-tab or tipboard upon which the tax imposed by subdivision 4 has not been paid is liable for a tax of six percent of the ideal gross of each pull-tab or tipboard. The tax on a partial deal must be assessed as if it were a full deal.

(b) In addition to penalties and criminal sanctions imposed by this chapter, a person not licensed by the board who conducts bingo, raffles, or paddlewheel games is liable for a tax of six percent of the gross receipts from that activity.

(c) The tax must be assessed by the commissioner. An assessment must be considered a jeopardy assessment or jeopardy collection as provided in section 270.70. The commissioner shall assess the tax based on personal knowledge or information available to the commissioner. The commissioner shall mail to the taxpayer at the taxpayer's last known address, or serve in person, a written notice of the amount of tax, demand its immediate payment, and, if payment is not immediately made, collect the tax by any method described in chapter 270, except that the commissioner need not await the expiration of the times specified in chapter 270. The tax assessed by the commissioner is presumed to be valid and correctly determined and assessed. The burden is upon the taxpayer to show its incorrectness or invalidity. The tax imposed

under this subdivision does not apply to gambling that is exempt from taxation under subdivision 2.

**Subd. 8. Personal debt.** The tax imposed by this section, and interest and penalties imposed with respect to it, are a personal debt of the person required to file a return from the time the liability for it arises, irrespective of when the time for payment of the liability occurs. The debt must, in the case of the executor or administrator of the estate of a decedent and in the case of a fiduciary, be that of the person in the person's official or fiduciary capacity only unless the person has voluntarily distributed the assets held in that capacity without reserving sufficient assets to pay the tax, interest, and penalties, in which event the person is personally liable for any deficiency.

**Subd. 9. Public information.** All records concerning the administration of the taxes under this chapter are classified as public information.

**Subd. 10. Refunds; appropriation.** A person who has, under this chapter, paid to the commissioner an amount of tax for a period in excess of the amount legally due for that period, may file with the commissioner a claim for a refund of the excess. The amount necessary to pay the refunds under this subdivision and subdivision 4, paragraph (d), is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner.

**Subd. 11. Unplayed or defective pull-tabs or tipboards.** If a deal of pull-tabs or tipboards registered with the board or bar coded in accordance with this chapter and chapter 349 and upon which the tax imposed by subdivision 4 has been paid is returned unplayed to the distributor, the commissioner shall allow a refund of the tax paid.

If a defective deal registered with the board or bar coded in accordance with this chapter and chapter 349 and upon which the taxes have been paid is returned to the manufacturer, the distributor shall submit to the commissioner of revenue certification from the manufacturer that the deal was returned and in what respect it was defective. The certification must be on a form prescribed by the commissioner and must contain additional information the commissioner requires.

The commissioner may require that no refund under this subdivision be made unless the returned pull-tabs or tipboards have been set aside for inspection by the commissioner's employee.

Reductions in previously paid taxes authorized by this subdivision must be made when and in the manner prescribed by the commissioner.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 2; 1995 c 264 art 17 s 3-5,11; 1996 c 471 art 13 s 12,13; 1998 c 389 art 13 s 3-5; 1999 c 243 art 7 s 5-8; 2000 c 490 art 10 s 3-6

### 297E.03 SPORTS BOOKMAKING TAX.

**Subdivision 1. Imposition of tax.** An excise tax of six percent is imposed on the value of all bets received by, recorded by, accepted by, forwarded by, or placed with a person engaged in sports bookmaking.

**Subd. 2. Bet defined.** For purposes of this section, the term "bet" has the meaning given it in section 609.75, subdivision 2.

**Subd. 3. Sports bookmaking defined.** For purposes of this section, the term "sports bookmaking" has the meaning given it in section 609.75, subdivision 7.

**Subd. 4. Amount of bet.** In determining the value or amount of any bet for purposes of this section, all charges incident to the placing of the bet must be included.

**Subd. 5. Tax returns.** A person engaged in sports bookmaking shall file monthly tax returns with the commissioner of revenue, in the form required by the commissioner, of all bookmaking activity, and shall include information on all bets recorded, accepted, forwarded, and placed. The returns must be filed on or before the 20th day of the month following the month in which the bets reported were recorded, accepted, forwarded, or placed. The tax imposed by this section is due and payable at the time when the returns are filed.

Subd. 6. **Persons liable for tax.** Each person who is engaged in receiving, recording, forwarding, or accepting sports bookmaking bets is liable for and shall pay the tax imposed under this section.

Subd. 7. **Jeopardy assessment; jeopardy collection.** The tax may be assessed by the commissioner of revenue. An assessment made pursuant to this section shall be considered a jeopardy assessment or jeopardy collection as provided in section 270.70. The commissioner shall assess the tax based on personal knowledge or information available to the commissioner. The commissioner shall mail to the taxpayer at the taxpayer's last known address, or serve in person, a written notice of the amount of tax, demand its immediate payment, and, if payment is not immediately made, collect the tax by any method described in chapter 270, except that the commissioner need not await the expiration of the times specified in chapter 270. The tax assessed by the commissioner is presumed to be valid and correctly determined and assessed.

Subd. 8. **Disclosure prohibited.** (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, neither the commissioner nor a public employee may reveal facts contained in a sports bookmaking tax return filed with the commissioner of revenue as required by this section, nor can any information contained in the report or return be used against the tax obligor in any criminal proceeding, unless independently obtained, except in connection with a proceeding involving taxes due under this section, or as provided in section 270.064.

(b) Any person violating this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(c) This section does not prohibit the commissioner from publishing statistics that do not disclose the identity of tax obligors or the contents of particular returns or reports.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 3

#### 297E.031 GAMBLING TAX PERMIT.

Subdivision 1. **Application and issuance.** A distributor who sells gambling products under this chapter must file an application with the commissioner, on a form prescribed by the commissioner, for a gambling tax permit and identification number. The commissioner, when satisfied that the applicant meets all applicable requirements under this chapter and chapter 349, shall issue the applicant a permit and number. A permit is not assignable and is valid only for the distributor in whose name it is issued.

Subd. 2. **Suspension; revocation.** (a) If a distributor fails to comply with this chapter or a rule of the commissioner, or if a license issued under chapter 349 is revoked or suspended, the commissioner, after giving notice, may for reasonable cause revoke or suspend a permit held by a distributor. A notice must be sent to the distributor at least 15 days before the proposed suspension or revocation is to take effect. The notice must give the reason for the proposed suspension or revocation and must require the distributor to show cause why the proposed action should not be taken. The notice may be served personally or by mail.

(b) The notice must inform the distributor of the right to a contested case hearing. If a request in writing is made to the commissioner within 14 days of the date of the notice, the commissioner shall defer action on the suspension or revocation and shall refer the case to the office of administrative hearings for the scheduling of a contested case hearing. The distributor must be served with 20 days' notice in writing specifying the time and place of the hearing and the allegations against the distributor.

(c) The commissioner shall issue a final order following receipt of the recommendation of the administrative law judge.

(d) Under section 271.06, subdivision 1, an appeal to the tax court may be taken from the commissioner's order of revocation or suspension. The commissioner may not issue a new permit after revocation except upon application accompanied by reasonable evidence of the intention of the applicant to comply with all applicable laws and rules.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 4; 1995 c 264 art 17 s 6

**297E.04 MANUFACTURER'S REPORTS AND RECORDS.**

Subdivision 1. **Reports of sales.** A manufacturer who sells gambling product for use or resale in this state, or for receipt by a person or entity in this state, shall file with the commissioner, on a form prescribed by the commissioner, a report of gambling product sold to any person in the state, including the established governing body of an Indian tribe recognized by the United States Department of the Interior. The report must be filed monthly on or before the 20th day of the month succeeding the month in which the sale was made. The commissioner may require that the report be submitted via magnetic media or electronic data transfer. The commissioner may inspect the premises, books, records, and inventory of a manufacturer without notice during the normal business hours of the manufacturer. A person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Subd. 2. **Bar codes.** The flare of each pull-tab and tipboard game must be imprinted by the manufacturer with a bar code that provides all information prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner must require that the bar code include the serial number of the game. A manufacturer must also affix to the outside of the box containing these games a bar code providing all information prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner may also prescribe additional bar coding requirements.

No person may alter the bar code that appears on the outside of a box containing a deal of pull-tabs and tipboards. Possession of a box containing a deal of pull-tabs and tipboards that has a bar code different from the bar code of the deal inside the box is prima facie evidence that the possessor has altered the bar code on the box.

Subd. 3. **Paddleticket card master flares.** Each sealed grouping of 100 or fewer paddleticket cards must have its own individual master flare. The manufacturer of the paddleticket cards must affix to or imprint at the bottom of each master flare a bar code that provides:

- (1) the name of the manufacturer;
  - (2) the first paddleticket card number in the group;
  - (3) the number of paddletickets attached to each paddleticket card in the group;
- and

- (4) all other information required by the commissioner.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 5; 1997 c 155 s 1

**297E.05 DISTRIBUTOR REPORTS AND RECORDS.**

Subdivision 1. **Business records.** A distributor shall keep at each place of business complete and accurate records for that place of business, including itemized invoices of gambling product held, purchased, manufactured, or brought in or caused to be brought in from without this state, and of all sales of gambling product. The records must show the names and addresses of purchasers, the inventory at the close of each period for which a return is required of all gambling product on hand, and other pertinent papers and documents relating to the purchase, sale, or disposition of gambling product. Books, records, itemized invoices, and other papers and documents required by this section must be kept for a period of at least 3-1/2 years after the date of the documents, or the date of the entries appearing in the records, unless the commissioner of revenue authorizes in writing their destruction or disposal at an earlier date.

Subd. 2. **Sales records.** A distributor must maintain a record of all gambling product that it sells. The record must include:

- (1) the identity of the person from whom the distributor purchased the product;
- (2) the registration number of the product;
- (3) the name, address, and license or exempt permit number of the organization or person to which the sale was made;

- (4) the date of the sale;
- (5) the name of the person who ordered the product;
- (6) the name of the person who received the product;
- (7) the type of product;
- (8) the serial number of the product;
- (9) the name, form number, or other identifying information for each game; and
- (10) in the case of bingo hard cards or sheets sold on and after January 1, 1991, the individual number of each card or sheet.

Subd. 3. **Invoices.** A distributor shall give with each sale of gambling product an itemized invoice showing the distributor's name and address, the purchaser's name and address, the date of the sale, description of the deals, including the ideal gross from every deal of pull-tabs and every deal of tipboards.

Subd. 4. **Reports.** A distributor shall report monthly to the commissioner, on a form the commissioner prescribes, its sales of each type of gambling product. This report must be filed monthly on or before the 20th day of the month succeeding the month in which the sale was made. The commissioner may require that a distributor submit the monthly report and invoices required in this subdivision via magnetic media or electronic data transfer.

Subd. 5. **Certified physical inventory.** The commissioner may, upon request, require a distributor to furnish a certified physical inventory of all gambling product in stock. The inventory must contain the information required by the commissioner.

**History:** 1994 c. 633 art 2 s 6

## 297E.06 ORGANIZATION REPORTS AND RECORDS.

Subdivision 1. **Reports.** An organization must file with the commissioner, on a form prescribed by the commissioner, a report showing all gambling activity conducted by that organization for each month. Gambling activity includes all gross receipts, prizes, all gambling taxes owed or paid to the commissioner, all gambling expenses, and all lawful purpose and board-approved expenditures. The report must be filed with the commissioner on or before the 20th day of the month following the month in which the gambling activity takes place. The commissioner may require that the reports be filed via magnetic media or electronic data transfer.

Subd. 2. **Business records.** An organization shall maintain records supporting the gambling activity reported to the commissioner. Records include, but are not limited to, the following items:

- (1) all winning and unsold tickets, cards, or stubs for pull-tab, tipboard, paddle-wheel, and raffle games;
- (2) all reports and statements, including checker's records, for each bingo occasion;
- (3) all cash journals and ledgers, deposit slips, register tapes, and bank statements supporting gambling activity receipts;
- (4) all invoices that represent purchases of gambling product;
- (5) all canceled checks, check recorders, journals and ledgers, vouchers, invoices, bank statements, and other documents supporting gambling activity expenditures; and
- (6) all organizational meeting minutes.

All records required to be kept by this section must be preserved by the organization for at least 3-1/2 years and may be inspected by the commissioner of revenue at any reasonable time without notice or a search warrant.

Subd. 3. **Accounts.** All gambling activity transactions must be segregated from all other revenues and expenditures made by the conducting organization.

Subd. 4. **Annual audit.** (a) An organization licensed under chapter 349 with gross receipts from lawful gambling of more than \$250,000 in any year must have an annual

financial audit of its lawful gambling activities and funds for that year. An organization licensed under chapter 349 with gross receipts from lawful gambling of more than \$50,000 but not more than \$250,000 in any year must have an annual financial review of its lawful gambling activities and funds for that year. Audits and financial reviews under this subdivision must be performed by an independent accountant licensed by the state of Minnesota.

(b) The commissioner of revenue shall prescribe standards for audits and financial review required under this subdivision. The standards may vary based on the gross receipts of the organization. The standards must incorporate and be consistent with standards prescribed by the American institute of certified public accountants. A complete, true, and correct copy of the audit report must be filed as prescribed by the commissioner.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 7

### 297E.07 INSPECTION RIGHTS.

At any reasonable time, without notice and without a search warrant, the commissioner may enter a place of business of a manufacturer, distributor, or organization; any site from which pull-tabs or tipboards or other gambling equipment or gambling product are being manufactured, stored, or sold; or any site at which lawful gambling is being conducted, and inspect the premises, books, records, and other documents required to be kept under this chapter to determine whether or not this chapter is being fully complied with. If the commissioner is denied free access to or is hindered or interfered with in making an inspection of the place of business, books, or records, the permit of the distributor may be revoked by the commissioner, and the license of the manufacturer, the distributor, or the organization may be revoked by the board.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 8

### 297E.08 EXAMINATIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Examination of taxpayer.** To determine the accuracy of a return or report, or in fixing liability under this chapter, the commissioner may make reasonable examinations or investigations of a taxpayer's place of business, tangible personal property, equipment, computer systems and facilities, pertinent books, records, papers, vouchers, computer printouts, accounts, and documents.

Subd. 2. **Access to records of other persons in connection with examination of taxpayer.** When conducting an investigation or an audit of a taxpayer, the commissioner may examine, except where privileged by law, the relevant records and files of a person, business, institution, financial institution, state agency, agency of the United States government, or agency of another state where permitted by statute, agreement, or reciprocity. The commissioner may compel production of these records by subpoena. A subpoena may be served directly by the commissioner.

Subd. 3. **Power to compel testimony.** In the administration of this chapter, the commissioner may:

(1) administer oaths or affirmations and compel by subpoena the attendance of witnesses, testimony, and the production of a person's pertinent books, records, papers, or other data;

(2) examine under oath or affirmation any person regarding the business of a taxpayer concerning a matter relevant to the administration of this chapter. The fees of witnesses required by the commissioner to attend a hearing are equal to those allowed to witnesses appearing before courts of this state. The fees must be paid in the manner provided for the payment of other expenses incident to the administration of state tax law; and

(3) in addition to other remedies available, bring an action in equity by the state against a taxpayer for an injunction ordering the taxpayer to file a complete and proper return or amended return. The district courts of this state have jurisdiction over the

action, and disobedience of an injunction issued under this clause must be punished as for contempt.

**Subd. 4. Third-party subpoena where taxpayer's identity is known.** An investigation may extend to any person that the commissioner determines has access to information that may be relevant to the examination or investigation. If a subpoena requiring the production of records under subdivision 2 is served on a third-party record keeper, written notice of the subpoena must be mailed to the taxpayer and to any other person who is identified in the subpoena. The notices must be given within three days of the day on which the subpoena is served. Notice to the taxpayer required by this section is sufficient if it is mailed to the last address on record with the commissioner of revenue.

The provisions of this subdivision relating to notice to the taxpayer or other parties identified in the subpoena do not apply if there is reasonable cause to believe that the giving of notice may lead to attempts to conceal, destroy, or alter records relevant to the examination, to prevent the communication of information from other persons through intimidation, bribery, or collusion, or to flee to avoid prosecution, testifying, or production of records.

**Subd. 5. Third-party subpoena where taxpayer's identity is not known.** A subpoena that does not identify the person or persons whose tax liability is being investigated may be served only if:

(1) the subpoena relates to the investigation of a particular person or ascertainable group or class of persons;

(2) there is a reasonable basis for believing that the person or group or class of persons may fail or may have failed to comply with tax laws administered by the commissioner of revenue;

(3) the subpoena is clear and specific concerning information sought to be obtained; and

(4) the information sought to be obtained is limited solely to the scope of the investigation.

A party served with a subpoena that does not identify the person or persons with respect to whose tax liability the subpoena is issued may, within three days after service of the subpoena, petition the district court in the judicial district in which that party is located for a determination whether the commissioner of revenue has complied with all the requirements in clauses (1) to (4), and whether the subpoena is enforceable. If no petition is made by the party served within the time prescribed, the subpoena has the effect of a court order.

**Subd. 6. Request by taxpayer for subpoena.** If the commissioner has the power to issue a subpoena for investigative or auditing purposes, the commissioner shall honor a reasonable request by the taxpayer to issue a subpoena on the taxpayer's behalf in connection with the investigation or audit.

**Subd. 7. Application to court for enforcement of subpoena.** The commissioner or the taxpayer may apply to the district court of the county of the taxpayer's residence, place of business, or county where the subpoena can be served as with any other case at law, for an order compelling the appearance of the subpoenaed witness or the production of the subpoenaed records. Failure to comply with the order of the court for the appearance of a witness or the production of records may be punished by the court as for contempt.

**Subd. 8. Cost of production of records.** The cost of producing records of a third party required by a subpoena must be paid by the taxpayer if the taxpayer requests the subpoena to be issued or if the taxpayer has the records available but has refused to provide them to the commissioner. In other cases where the taxpayer cannot produce records and the commissioner then issues a subpoena for third-party records, the commissioner shall pay the reasonable cost of producing the records. The commission-

er may later assess the reasonable costs against the taxpayer if the records contribute to the determination of an assessment of tax against the taxpayer.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 9

#### 297E.09 ASSESSMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Generally.** The commissioner shall make determinations, corrections, and assessments with respect to taxes, including interest, additions to taxes, and assessable penalties, imposed under this chapter.

Subd. 2. **Commissioner filed returns.** If a taxpayer fails to file a return required by this chapter, the commissioner may make a return for the taxpayer from information in the commissioner's possession or obtainable by the commissioner. The return is prima facie correct and valid.

Subd. 3. **Order of assessment; notice and demand to taxpayer.** (a) If a return has been filed and the commissioner determines that the tax disclosed by the return is different from the tax determined by the examination, the commissioner shall send an order of assessment to the taxpayer. The order must explain the basis for the assessment and must explain the taxpayer's appeal rights. An assessment by the commissioner must be made by recording the liability of the taxpayer in the office of the commissioner, which may be done by keeping a copy of the order of assessment sent to the taxpayer. An order of assessment is final when made but may be reconsidered by the commissioner under section 297E.15.

(b) The amount of unpaid tax shown on the order must be paid to the commissioner:

(1) within 60 days after notice of the amount and demand for its payment have been mailed to the taxpayer by the commissioner; or

(2) if an administrative appeal is filed under section 297E.15 within 60 days following the determination or compromise of the appeal.

Subd. 4. **Erroneous refunds.** An erroneous refund is considered an underpayment of tax on the date made. An assessment of a deficiency arising out of an erroneous refund may be made at any time within two years from the making of the refund. If part of the refund was induced by fraud or misrepresentation of a material fact, the assessment may be made at any time.

Subd. 5. **Assessment presumed valid.** A return or assessment made by the commissioner is prima facie correct and valid. The taxpayer has the burden of establishing the incorrectness or invalidity of the return or assessment in any action or proceeding in respect to it.

Subd. 6. **Aggregate refund or assessment.** On examining returns of a taxpayer for more than one year or period, the commissioner may issue one order covering the period under examination that reflects the aggregate refund or additional tax due.

Subd. 7. **Sufficiency of notice.** An order of assessment sent by United States mail, postage prepaid to the taxpayer at the taxpayer's last known address, is sufficient even if the taxpayer is deceased or is under a legal disability, or, in the case of a corporation, has terminated its existence, unless the department has been provided with a new address by a party authorized to receive notices of assessment.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 10; 1995 c 186 s 119

#### 297E.10 EXTENSIONS FOR FILING RETURNS AND PAYING TAXES.

If, in the commissioner's judgment, good cause exists, the commissioner may extend the time for filing tax returns, paying taxes, or both, for not more than six months.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 11

**297E.11 LIMITATIONS ON TIME FOR ASSESSMENT OF TAX.**

Subdivision 1. **General rule.** Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the amount of taxes assessable must be assessed within 3-1/2 years after the return is filed, whether or not the return is filed on or after the date prescribed. A return must not be treated as filed until it is in processible form. A return is in processible form if it is filed on a permitted form and contains sufficient data to identify the taxpayer and permit the mathematical verification of the tax liability shown on the return.

Subd. 2. **False or fraudulent return.** Notwithstanding subdivision 1, the tax may be assessed at any time if a false or fraudulent return is filed or if a taxpayer fails to file a return.

Subd. 3. **Omission in excess of 25 percent.** Additional taxes may be assessed within 6-1/2 years after the due date of the return or the date the return was filed, whichever is later, if the taxpayer omits from a tax return taxes in excess of 25 percent of the taxes reported in the return.

Subd. 4. **Time limit for refunds.** Unless otherwise provided in this chapter, a claim for a refund of an overpayment of tax must be filed within the period prescribed in section 289A.40, subdivision 1. Interest on refunds must be computed at the rate specified in section 270.76 from the date of payment to the date the refund is paid or credited. For purposes of this subdivision, the date of payment is the later of the date the tax was finally due or was paid.

Subd. 5. **Bankruptcy; suspension of time.** The time during which a tax must be assessed or collection proceedings begun is suspended during the period from the date of a filing of a petition in bankruptcy until 30 days after either:

- (1) notice to the commissioner that the bankruptcy proceedings have been closed or dismissed; or
- (2) the automatic stay has been ended or has expired, whichever occurs first.

The suspension of the statute of limitations under this subdivision applies to the person the petition in bankruptcy is filed against, and all other persons who may also be wholly or partially liable for the tax.

Subd. 6. **Extension agreement.** If before the expiration of time prescribed in subdivisions 1 and 4 for the assessment of tax or the filing of a claim for refund, both the commissioner and the taxpayer have consented in writing to the assessment or filing of a claim for refund after that time, the tax may be assessed or the claim for refund filed at any time before the expiration of the agreed upon period. The period may be extended by later agreements in writing before the expiration of the period previously agreed upon.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 12; 1995 c 264 art 13 s 19

**297E.12 CIVIL PENALTIES.**

Subdivision 1. **Penalty for failure to pay tax.** If a tax is not paid within the time specified for payment, a penalty is added to the amount required to be shown as tax. The penalty is five percent of the unpaid tax if the failure is for not more than 30 days, with an additional penalty of five percent of the amount of tax remaining unpaid during each additional 30 days or fraction of 30 days during which the failure continues, not exceeding 15 percent in the aggregate.

If the taxpayer has not filed a return, for purposes of this subdivision the time specified for payment is the final date a return should have been filed.

Subd. 2. **Penalty for failure to make and file return.** If a taxpayer fails to make and file a return within the time prescribed or an extension, a penalty is added to the tax. The penalty is five percent of the amount of tax not paid on or before the date prescribed for payment of the tax.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1999 c 243 art 16 s 39]

Subd. 4. **Penalty for intentional disregard of law or rules.** If part of an additional assessment is due to negligence or intentional disregard of the provisions of this chapter or rules of the commissioner of revenue (but without intent to defraud), there is added to the tax an amount equal to ten percent of the additional assessment.

Subd. 5. **Penalty for false or fraudulent return; evasion.** If a person files a false or fraudulent return, or attempts in any manner to evade or defeat a tax or payment of tax, there is imposed on the person a penalty equal to 50 percent of the tax found due for the period to which the return related, less amounts paid by the person on the basis of the false or fraudulent return.

Subd. 6. **Penalty for repeated failures to file returns or pay taxes.** If there is a pattern by a person of repeated failures to timely file returns or timely pay taxes, and written notice is given that a penalty will be imposed if such failures continue, a penalty of 25 percent of the amount of tax not timely paid as a result of each such subsequent failure is added to the tax. The penalty can be abated under the abatement authority in section 270.07, subdivisions 1, paragraph (e), and 6.

Subd. 7. **Penalty for sales after revocation, suspension, or expiration.** A distributor who engages in, or whose representative engages in, the offering for sale, sale, transport, delivery, or furnishing of gambling equipment to a person, firm, or organization, after the distributor's license or permit has been revoked or suspended, or has expired, and until such license or permit has been reinstated or renewed, is liable for a penalty of \$1,000 for each day the distributor continues to engage in the activity. This subdivision does not apply to the transport of gambling equipment for the purpose of returning the equipment to a licensed manufacturer.

Subd. 8. **Payment of penalties.** The penalties imposed by this section must be collected and paid in the same manner as taxes.

Subd. 9. **Penalties are additional.** The civil penalties imposed by this section are in addition to the criminal penalties imposed by this chapter.

Subd. 10. **Order payments credited.** All payments received may be credited first to the oldest liability not secured by a judgment or lien in the discretion of the commissioner of revenue, but in all cases must be credited first to penalties, next to interest, and then to the tax due.

*History: 1994 c 633 art 2 s 13; 1995 c 264 art 13 s 20*

### 297E.13 TAX-RELATED CRIMINAL PENALTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Penalty for failure to file or pay.** (a) A person required to file a return, report, or other document with the commissioner, who knowingly fails to file it when required, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. A person required to file a return, report, or other document who willfully attempts to evade or defeat a tax by failing to file it when required is guilty of a felony.

(b) A person required to pay or to collect and remit a tax, who knowingly fails to do so when required, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. A person required to pay or to collect and remit a tax, who willfully attempts to evade or defeat a tax law by failing to do so when required is guilty of a felony.

Subd. 2. **False or fraudulent returns; penalties.** (a) A person required to file a return, report, or other document with the commissioner, who delivers to the commissioner a return, report, or other document known by the person to be fraudulent or false concerning a material matter is guilty of a felony.

(b) A person who knowingly aids or assists in, or advises in the preparation or presentation of a return, report, or other document that is fraudulent or false concerning a material matter, whether or not the falsity or fraud committed is with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present the return, report, or other document, is guilty of a felony.

Subd. 3. **False information.** A person is guilty of a felony if the person:

(1) is required by section 297E.05 to keep records or to make returns, and falsifies or fails to keep the records or falsifies or fails to make the returns; or

(2) knowingly submits materially false information in any report, document, or other communication submitted to the commissioner in connection with lawful gambling or with this chapter.

**Subd. 4. Sales without permit; violations.** (a) A person who engages in the business of selling gambling product in Minnesota without the licenses or permits required under this chapter or chapter 349, or an officer of a corporation who so engages in the sales, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(b) A person selling gambling product in Minnesota after revocation of a license or permit under this chapter or chapter 349, when the commissioner or the board has not issued a new license or permit, is guilty of a felony.

**Subd. 5. Untaxed gambling equipment.** It is a gross misdemeanor for a person to possess gambling equipment for resale in this state that has not been stamped or bar-coded in accordance with this chapter and chapter 349 and upon which the taxes imposed by chapter 297A or section 297E.02, subdivision 4, have not been paid. The director of alcohol and gambling enforcement or the commissioner or the designated inspectors and employees of the director or commissioner may seize in the name of the state of Minnesota any unregistered or untaxed gambling equipment.

**Subd. 6. Criminal penalties.** (a) Criminal penalties imposed by this section are in addition to civil penalties imposed by this chapter.

(b) A person who violates a provision of this chapter for which another penalty is not provided is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(c) A person who violates a provision of this chapter for which another penalty is not provided is guilty of a gross misdemeanor if the violation occurs within five years after a previous conviction under a provision of this chapter.

(d) A person who in any manner violates a provision of this chapter to evade a tax imposed by this chapter, or who aids and abets the evasion of a tax, or hinders or interferes with a seizing authority when a seizure is made as provided by section 297E.16 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(e) This section does not preclude civil or criminal action under other applicable law or preclude any agency of government from investigating or prosecuting violations of this chapter or chapter 349. County attorneys have primary responsibility for prosecuting violations of this chapter, but the attorney general may prosecute a violation of this chapter.

**Subd. 7. Statute of limitations.** Notwithstanding section 628.26, or other provision of the criminal laws of this state, an indictment may be found and filed, or a complaint filed, upon a criminal offense named in this section, in the proper court within six years after the offense is committed.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 14; 1995 c 264 art 17 s 7; 1997 c 129 art 2 s 15

#### **297E.14 INTEREST.**

**Subdivision 1. Interest rate.** If an interest assessment is required under this section, interest is computed at the rate specified in section 270.75.

**Subd. 2. Late payment.** If a tax is not paid within the time specified by law for payment, the unpaid tax bears interest from the date the tax should have been paid until the date the tax is paid.

**Subd. 3. Extensions.** If an extension of time for payment has been granted, interest must be paid from the date the payment should have been made if no extension had been granted, until the date the tax is paid.

**Subd. 4. Additional assessments.** If a taxpayer is liable for additional taxes because of a redetermination by the commissioner, or for any other reason, the additional taxes

bear interest from the time the tax should have been paid, without regard to any extension allowed, until the date the tax is paid.

Subd. 5. **Erroneous refunds.** In the case of an erroneous refund, interest accrues from the date the refund was paid unless the erroneous refund results from a mistake of the department, then no interest or penalty is imposed unless the deficiency assessment is not satisfied within 60 days of the order.

Subd. 6. **Interest on judgments.** Notwithstanding section 549.09, if judgment is entered in favor of the commissioner with regard to any tax, the judgment bears interest at the rate specified in section 270.75 from the date the judgment is entered until the date of payment.

Subd. 7. **Interest on penalties.** (a) A penalty imposed under section 297E.12, subdivision 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, bears interest from the date the return or payment was required to be filed or paid, including any extensions, to the date of payment of the penalty.

(b) A penalty not included in paragraph (a) bears interest only if it is not paid within ten days from the date of notice. In that case interest is imposed from the date of notice to the date of payment.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 15.

#### 297E.15 ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.

Subdivision 1. **Taxpayer right to reconsideration.** A taxpayer may obtain reconsideration by the commissioner of an order assessing tax, a denial of a request for abatement of penalty, or a denial of a claim for refund of money paid to the commissioner under provisions, assessments, or orders under this chapter by filing an administrative appeal as provided in subdivision 4. A taxpayer cannot obtain reconsideration if the action taken by the commissioner of revenue is the outcome of an administrative appeal.

Subd. 2. **Appeal by taxpayer.** A taxpayer who wishes to seek administrative review shall follow the procedure in subdivision 4.

Subd. 3. **Notice date.** For purposes of this section, "notice date" means the date of the order adjusting the tax or order denying a request for abatement or, in the case of a denied refund, the date of the notice of denial.

Subd. 4. **Time and content for administrative appeal.** Within 60 days after the notice date, the taxpayer must file a written appeal with the commissioner of revenue. The appeal need not be in any particular form, but must contain the following information:

- (1) name and address of the taxpayer;
- (2) if a corporation, the state of incorporation of the taxpayer, and the principal place of business of the corporation;
- (3) the Minnesota identification number or social security number of the taxpayer;
- (4) the type of tax involved;
- (5) the date;
- (6) the tax years or periods involved and the amount of tax involved for each year or period;
- (7) the findings in the notice that the taxpayer disputes;
- (8) a summary statement that the taxpayer relies on for each exception; and
- (9) the taxpayer's signature or signature of the taxpayer's duly authorized agent.

Subd. 5. **Extensions.** If requested in writing and within the time allowed for filing an administrative appeal, the commissioner may extend the time for filing an appeal for a period of not more than 30 days from the expiration of the 60 days from the notice date.

Subd. 6. **Automatic extension of statute of limitations.** Notwithstanding any statute of limitations to the contrary, if the commissioner has made a determination and the taxpayer has authority to file an administrative appeal, the period during which the commissioner can make further assessments or other determinations does not expire before:

- (1) 90 days after the notice date if no protest is filed under subdivision 4; or
- (2) 90 days after the commissioner notifies the taxpayer of the determination on the appeal.

Subd. 7. **Determination of appeal.** On the basis of applicable law and available information, the commissioner shall determine the validity, if any, in whole or part of the appeal and notify the taxpayer of the decision. This notice must be in writing and contain the basis for the determination.

Subd. 8. **Agreement determining tax liability.** If it appears to be in the best interests of the state, the commissioner may settle taxes, penalties, or interest that the commissioner has under consideration by virtue of an appeal filed under this section. An agreement must be in writing and signed by the commissioner and the taxpayer or the taxpayer's representative authorized by the taxpayer to enter into an agreement. The agreement shall be final and conclusive and, except upon a showing of fraud or malfeasance, or misrepresentation of a material fact, the case shall not be reopened as to the matters agreed upon.

Subd. 9. **Appeal of an administrative determination.** Following the determination of an appeal, the commissioner must issue an order reflecting that disposition. The order is appealable to the Minnesota tax court under section 271.06.

Subd. 10. **Appeal where no determination.** If the commissioner does not make a determination within six months of the filing of an administrative appeal, the taxpayer may elect to appeal to tax court.

Subd. 11. **Exception from Administrative Procedure Act.** This section is not subject to chapter 14.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 16; 1998 c 300 art 3 s 9,10

## 297E.16 CONTRABAND.

Subdivision 1. **Seizure.** Contraband may be seized by the commissioner or by any sheriff or other police officer, hereinafter referred to as the "seizing authority," with or without process, and is subject to forfeiture as provided in subdivisions 2 and 3.

Subd. 2. **Inventory; judicial determination; appeal; disposition of seized property.** Within ten days after the seizure of alleged contraband, the person making the seizure shall make available an inventory of the property seized to the person from whom the property was seized, if known, and file a copy with the commissioner or the director of alcohol and gambling enforcement. Within ten days after the date of service of the inventory, the person from whom the property was seized or any person claiming an interest in the property may file with the seizing authority a demand for judicial determination of whether the property was lawfully subject to seizure and forfeiture. Within 60 days after the date of filing of the demand, the seizing authority must bring an action in the district court of the county where seizure was made to determine the issue of forfeiture. The action must be brought in the name of the state and be prosecuted by the county attorney or by the attorney general. The court shall hear the action without a jury and determine the issues of fact and law involved. If a judgment of forfeiture is entered, the seizing authority may, unless the judgment is stayed pending an appeal, either (1) cause the forfeited property to be destroyed; or (2) cause it to be sold at a public auction as provided by law.

If demand for judicial determination is made and no action is commenced by the seizing authority as provided in this subdivision, the property must be released by the seizing authority and delivered to the person entitled to it. If no demand is made, the property seized is considered forfeited to the seizing authority by operation of law and may be disposed of by the seizing authority as provided where there has been a

judgment of forfeiture. When the seizing authority is satisfied that a person from whom property is seized was acting in good faith and without intent to evade the tax imposed by section 297E.02, the seizing authority shall release the property seized without further legal proceedings.

Subd. 3. **Disposal.** (a) The property described in section 349.2125, subdivision 1, clauses (4) and (5), must be confiscated after conviction of the person from whom it was seized, upon compliance with the following procedure: the seizing authority shall file with the court a separate complaint against the property, describing it and charging its use in the specific violation, and specifying substantially the time and place of the unlawful use. A copy of the complaint must be served upon the defendant or person in charge of the property at the time of seizure, if any. If the person arrested is acquitted, the court shall dismiss the complaint against the property and order it returned to the persons legally entitled to it. Upon conviction of the person arrested, the court shall issue an order directed to any person known or believed to have any right, title or interest in, or lien upon, any of the property, and to persons unknown claiming any right, title, interest, or lien in it, describing the property and (1) stating that it was seized and that a complaint against it, charging the specified violation, has been filed with the court, (2) requiring the persons to file with the court administrator their answer to the complaint, setting forth any claim they may have to any right or title to, interest in, or lien upon the property, within 30 days after the service of the order, and (3) notifying them in substance that if they fail to file their answer within the time, the property will be ordered sold by the seizing authority. The court shall cause the order to be served upon any person known or believed to have any right, title, interest, or lien as in the case of a summons in a civil action, and upon unknown persons by publication, as provided for service of summons in a civil action. If no answer is filed within the time prescribed, the court shall, upon affidavit by the court administrator, setting forth the fact, order the property sold by the seizing authority. Seventy percent of the proceeds of the sale of forfeited property, after payment of seizure, storage, forfeiture, and sale expenses, must be forwarded to the seizing authority for deposit as a supplement to its operating fund or similar fund for official use, and 20 percent must be forwarded to the county attorney or other prosecuting agency that handled the forfeiture for deposit as a supplement to its operating fund or similar fund for prosecutorial purposes. The remaining ten percent of the proceeds must be forwarded within 60 days after resolution of the forfeiture to the department of human services to fund programs for the treatment of compulsive gamblers. If an answer is filed within the time provided, the court shall fix a time for a hearing, which must not be less than ten nor more than 30 days after the time for filing an answer expires. At the time fixed for hearing, unless continued for cause, the matter must be heard and determined by the court, without a jury, as in other civil actions.

(b) If the court finds that the property, or any part of it, was used in the violation specified in the complaint, it shall order the unlawfully used property sold as provided by law, unless the owner shows to the satisfaction of the court that the owner had no notice or knowledge or reason to believe that the property was used or intended to be used in the violation. The officer making a sale, after deducting the expense of keeping the property, the fee for seizure, and the costs of the sale, shall pay all liens according to their priority, which are established at the hearing as being bona fide and as existing without the lienor having any notice or knowledge that the property was being used or was intended to be used for or in connection with the violation specified in the order of the court, and shall pay the balance of the proceeds to the seizing authority for official use and sharing in the manner provided in paragraph (a). A sale under this section frees the property sold from all liens on it. Appeal from the order of the district court is available as in other civil cases. At any time after seizure of the articles specified in this subdivision, and before the hearing provided for, the property must be returned to the owner or person having a legal right to its possession, upon execution of a good and valid bond to the state, with corporate surety, in the sum of at least \$100 and not more than double the value of the property seized, to be approved by the court in which the case is triable, or a judge of it, conditioned to abide any order and the judgment of the

court, and to pay the full value of the property at the time of the seizure. The seizing authority may dismiss the proceedings outlined in this subdivision when the seizing authority considers it to be in the public interest to do so.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 17; 1997 c 129 art 2 s 15

#### **297E.17 DISTRIBUTOR'S BOND.**

On finding it necessary to ensure compliance with this chapter, the commissioner may require that a distributor deposit with the commissioner security in the form and amount determined by the commissioner, but not more than the lesser of (1) twice the estimated average monthly tax liability for the previous 12 months, or (2) \$10,000.

In lieu of security, the commissioner may require a distributor to file a bond issued by a surety company authorized to transact business in this state and approved by the commissioner of commerce as to solvency and responsibility.

The commissioner may make claim against this security or bond for all taxes, penalties, and interest owed by the distributor.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 18