

Missouri State Highway Patrol

The Gaming Division, pursuant to a memorandum of understanding with the Missouri Gaming Commission, provides criminal and regulatory enforcement of gaming operations within the state. Under the command of Captain Larry W. Plunkett, Jr., the division is divided into four sections: Administrative Services, Investigations, Eastern District Enforcement and Western District Enforcement. The Gaming Division is one of the Highway Patrol's largest divisions, with an authorized strength of 122 uniformed members and three civilians. The staffing of 122 troopers assigned to the Gaming Division does not impact or reduce the number of troopers assigned to patrol Missouri roadways, as allocated by the legislature.

The Gaming Division was established on May 1, 1994, by order of Colonel Fred M. Mills, and was the first new division established within the Patrol since the creation of the Division of Drug and Crime Control in 1983. Strict criminal and regulatory enforcement, as well as meticulous investigations are essential elements to the successful regulation of legalized gambling in Missouri. Because of its history of service with distinction and integrity, the Patrol was given the responsibility of providing investigative, regulatory and criminal law enforcement services, which ultimately police the gaming industry.

The Administrative Services Section, under the supervision of Lieutenant Jeffery T. Fitzgerald, oversees criminal records, case management, motor equipment/fleet management, training, overtime, recruiting, personnel actions, and oversees the collection and preservation of evidence and special projects.

The Investigative Section, under the supervision of Lieutenant Edward J. Aylward, is divided into two units: the Investigative Unit and the Charitable Games Unit. The Investigative Unit conducts extensive background investigations to determine the suitability of licensees, suppliers and vendors. The Charitable Games Unit oversees 207 licensed bingo operators and is also charged with conducting background investigations on both charitable gaming and riverboat supplier companies.

The Enforcement Section is divided into two districts. The Eastern District is under the supervision of Lieutenant Johnny L. Ellsworth. The Western District is under the supervision of Lieutenant Andrew O. Tourney. Officers assigned to the Enforcement Units are responsible for enforcing both Missouri criminal statutes and Missouri Gaming Commission regulations on the 13 licensed casino properties.

All four sections of the Patrol's Gaming Division are provided clerical support from Administrative Office Support Assistant, Ms. Rachel M. Thowe; Clerk Typist, Mrs. Rebecca L. Libbert; and Clerk Typist Mrs. Stephanie A. Miller.

The arrest and enforcement totals were affected by the casino closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following chart depicts arrests for all casinos statewide:

2020 MSHP-GD FISCAL YEAR CASINO ARRESTS													
BOAT	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTALS
Ameristar KC	73	54	48	53	54	61	42	52	27	0	0	26	490
Ameristar SC	9	41	47	27	24	25	26	27	7	0	0	61	294
Argosy	47	53	60	43	37	90	102	98	74	0	0	64	668
Harrah's NKC	78	99	62	46	40	44	50	64	50	0	0	11	544
Hollywood - STL	6	17	31	23	39	17	34	17	23	0	0	9	216
Isle of Capri - Boonville	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	5	1	0	0	3	16
Isle of Capri/Century - Cape	21	9	16	3	12	2	9	10	1	0	0	16	99
Isle of Capri / Casino KC	70	50	74	46	38	96	96	61	37	0	0	31	599
Lady Luck/Century IOC Caruthersville	1	1	0	3	1	1	2	2	3	0	0	2	16
Lumiere Place	33	63	31	28	20	26	20	16	4	0	0	6	247
Mark Twain	2	2	3	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	15
River City	37	102	59	20	46	58	90	129	90	0	0	66	697
St. Jo Frontier	4	9	4	3	1	1	1	5	4	0	0	1	33
TOTALS	383	501	436	300	314	422	472	486	322	0	0	298	3934