

Act No. 295
Public Acts of 2006
Approved by the Governor
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**STATE OF MICHIGAN
93RD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2006**

Introduced by Reps. Nofs, Hildenbrand, Palsrok and Clemente

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 5958

AN ACT to amend 1981 PA 95, entitled "An act to regulate the business of buying and receiving gold, silver, platinum, gems, jewelry, and other precious items; to provide powers to certain state and local officers and agencies with respect to such regulation; to provide for the registration of precious metal and gem dealers; to provide for civil damages; and to prescribe penalties," by amending sections 2 and 3 (MCL 445.482 and 445.483), section 2 as amended by 1990 PA 34.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

(a) "Agent or employee" means a person who, for compensation or valuable consideration, is employed either directly or indirectly by a dealer.

(b) "Dealer" means any person, corporation, partnership, or association, which, in whole or in part, engages in the ordinary course of repeated and recurrent transactions of buying or receiving precious items from the public within this state.

(c) "Gold" means elemental gold having an atomic weight of 196.967 and the chemical element symbol of Au, whether found by itself or in combination with its alloys or any other metal.

(d) "Internet drop-off store" means a person, corporation, or firm that contracts with other persons, corporations, or firms to offer its precious items for sale, purchase, consignment, or trade through means of an internet website and meets the conditions described in section 3(3).

(e) "Jewelry" means an ornamental item made of a material that includes a precious gem.

(f) "Local governmental unit" means a city, village, township, or county.

(g) "Local police agency" means the police agency of the city, village, or township, or if none, the county sheriff of the county, in which the dealer or internet drop-off store conducts business.

(h) "Platinum" means elemental platinum having an atomic weight of 195.09 and the chemical element symbol of Pt, whether found by itself or in combination with its alloys or any other metal.

(i) "Precious gem" means a diamond, alexandrite, ruby, sapphire, opal, amethyst, emerald, aquamarine, morganite, garnet, jadeite, topaz, tourmaline, turquoise, or pearl.

(j) "Precious item" means jewelry, a precious gem, or an item containing gold, silver, or platinum. Precious item does not include the following:

(i) Coins, commemorative medals, and tokens struck by, or in behalf of, a government or private mint.

(ii) Bullion bars and discs of the type traded by banks and commodity exchanges.

(iii) Items at the time they are purchased directly from a dealer registered under this act, a manufacturer, or a wholesaler who purchased them directly from a manufacturer.

(iv) Industrial machinery or equipment.

(v) An item being returned to or exchanged at the dealer where the item was purchased and that is accompanied by a valid sales receipt.

(vi) An item which is received for alteration, redesign, or repair in a manner that does not substantially change its use and returned directly to the customer.

(vii) An item which does not have a jeweler's identifying mark or a serial mark and which the dealer purchases for less than \$5.00.

(viii) Scrap metal which contains incidental traces of gold, silver, or platinum that are recoverable as a by-product.

(ix) Jewelry which a customer trades for other jewelry having a greater value, and which difference in value is paid by the customer.

(k) "Silver" means elemental silver having an atomic weight of 107.869 and the chemical element symbol of Ag, whether found by itself or in combination with its alloys or any other metal.

Sec. 3. (1) A dealer shall not conduct business in a local governmental unit in this state unless the dealer has obtained a valid certificate of registration from that local governmental unit or local police agency.

(2) This section does not require an internet drop-off store complying with subsection (3), or a person engaged in the sale, purchase, consignment, or trade of precious items for himself or herself, to obtain a registration under this act.

(3) An internet drop-off store in compliance with the following conditions is exempt from registration as a dealer under this act:

(a) Has a fixed place of business within this state except that he or she exclusively transacts all purchases or sales by means of the internet and the purchases and sales are not physically transacted on the premises of that fixed place of business.

(b) Has the personal property or other valuable thing available on a website for viewing by photograph, if available, by the general public at no charge, which website shall be searchable by zip code or state, or both. The website viewing shall include, as applicable, serial number, make, model, and other unique identifying marks, numbers, names, or letters appearing on the personal property or other valuable thing.

(c) Maintains records of the sale, purchase, consignment, or trade of the personal property or other valuable thing for at least 2 years, which records shall contain a description, including a photograph, if available, and, if applicable, serial number, make, model, and other unique identifying marks, numbers, names, or letters appearing on the personal property or other valuable thing.

(d) Provide the local police agency with any name under which it conducts business on the website and access to the business premises at any time during normal business hours for purposes of inspection.

(e) Within 24 hours after a request from a local police agency, provide an electronic copy of the seller's or consignor's name, address, telephone number, driver license number and issuing state, the buyer's name and address if applicable, and a description of the personal property or other valuable thing as described in subdivision (c). The provision of information shall be in a format acceptable to the local police agency but shall at least be in a legible format and in the English language.

(f) Provide that payment for the personal property or other valuable thing is executed by means of check or other electronic payment system, so long as the payment is not made in cash. No payment shall be provided to the seller until the item is sold.

(g) Immediately remove the personal property or other valuable thing from the website if the local police agency determines that the personal property or other valuable thing is stolen.

(4) A dealer shall apply to the local police agency for a certificate of registration, and pay a fee not to exceed \$50.00 to cover the reasonable cost of processing and issuing the certificate of registration, by disclosing the following information:

(a) The name, address, and thumbprint of the applicant.

(b) The name and address under which the applicant does business.

(c) The name, address, and thumbprint of all agents or employees of the dealer. Within 24 hours after hiring a new employee, the dealer shall forward to the local police agency the name, address, and thumbprint of the new employee.

(5) A dealer or an agent or employee of a dealer who is convicted of a misdemeanor under this act or under section 535 of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.535, shall not be permitted to operate as a dealer within this state for a period of 1 year after conviction.

(6) A dealer or an agent or employee of a dealer who is convicted of a felony under this act or under section 535 of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.535, shall not be permitted to operate as a dealer within this state for a period of 5 years after the conviction.

(7) This act shall not be construed to excuse a dealer from complying with the local zoning ordinance or any local ordinance regulating commercial activities. However, a local government may not pass an ordinance, or enforce an existing ordinance, that provides additional standards which must be met before the issuance of a certificate of registration.

(8) Upon receipt of the application described in subsection (4), the local police agency shall issue a certificate of registration in accordance with this section.

(9) Upon receipt of the certificate of registration from the local police agency, the dealer shall post it in a conspicuous place in the dealer's place of business.

(10) Not less than 10 days before a dealer changes the name or address under which the dealer does business, the dealer shall notify the local police agency of the change.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect unless all of the following bills of the 93rd Legislature are enacted into law:

- (a) House Bill No. 5955.
- (b) House Bill No. 5956.
- (c) House Bill No. 5957.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Clerk of the House of Representatives



Secretary of the Senate

Approved

Governor