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Secretary of state begins licensing sports agents

LINCOLN – Secretary of State John Gale’s office has begun licensing sports agents in Nebraska who seek to represent student-athletes regarding professional sports contracts or endorsement contracts.

The licensing is the result of the 2009 Legislature’s passage of LB 292, which adopted the Nebraska Uniform Athlete Agents Act. The law took effect Jan. 1.

“We welcome the responsibility of licensing sports agents,” Gale said. “The legislation will help protect the interests of student-athletes and college athletic departments in Nebraska.”

Although the licensing process is new, a few licenses already have been approved, Gale said.

To obtain a license or renewal, a sports agent must supply detailed background information. A license or a renewal is valid for two years.

Under the law, the secretary of state may refuse to issue a license or may suspend, revoke or refuse to renew a license if it is determined that the “applicant has engaged in conduct that has a significant adverse effect on the applicant’s fitness to act as an athlete agent.”

The licensing of sports agents will be the responsibility of the secretary of state’s Licensing Division, which also licenses collection agencies, debt management agencies, private detectives, and polygraph and voice stress examiners.

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