
HOUSE BILL 1479

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53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives G. Fisher, Foreman, Wang and Anderson; by request of Department of Revenue

Read first time 01/29/93. Referred to Committee on Revenue.

1 AN ACT Relating to the administration of the uniform unclaimed
2 property act; and amending RCW 63.29.010, 63.29.130, 63.29.020,
3 63.29.165, 19.150.060, 19.150.080, 63.29.170, 63.29.190, 63.29.180, and
4 63.29.220.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 63.29.010 and 1983 c 179 s 1 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

9 (1) "Department" means the department of revenue established under
10 RCW 82.01.050.

11 (2) "Apparent owner" means the person whose name appears on the
12 records of the holder as the person entitled to property held, issued,
13 or owing by the holder.

14 (3) "Attorney general" means the chief legal officer of this state
15 referred to in chapter 43.10 RCW.

16 (4) "Banking organization" means a bank, trust company, savings
17 bank, land bank, safe deposit company, private banker, or any
18 organization defined by other law as a bank or banking organization.

1 (5) "Business association" means a nonpublic corporation, joint
2 stock company, investment company, business trust, partnership, or
3 association for business purposes of two or more individuals, whether
4 or not for profit, including a banking organization, financial
5 organization, insurance company, or utility.

6 (6) "Domicile" means the state of incorporation of a corporation
7 and the state of the principal place of business of an unincorporated
8 person.

9 (7) "Financial organization" means a savings and loan association,
10 cooperative bank, building and loan association, or credit union.

11 (8) "Holder" means a person, wherever organized or domiciled, who
12 is:

13 (a) In possession of property belonging to another,

14 (b) A trustee, or

15 (c) Indebted to another on an obligation.

16 (9) "Insurance company" means an association, corporation,
17 fraternal or mutual benefit organization, whether or not for profit,
18 which is engaged in providing insurance coverage, including accident,
19 burial, casualty, credit life, contract performance, dental, fidelity,
20 fire, health, hospitalization, illness, life (including endowments and
21 annuities), malpractice, marine, mortgage, surety, and wage protection
22 insurance.

23 (10) "Intangible property" does not include contract claims which
24 are unliquidated but does include:

25 (a) Moneys, checks, drafts, deposits, interest, dividends, and
26 income;

27 (b) Credit balances, customer overpayments, gift certificates,
28 security deposits, refunds, credit memos, unpaid wages, unused airline
29 tickets, and unidentified remittances, but does not include discounts
30 which represent credit balances for which no consideration was given;

31 (c) Stocks, and other intangible ownership interests in business
32 associations;

33 (d) Moneys deposited to redeem stocks, bonds, coupons, and other
34 securities, or to make distributions;

35 (e) Liquidated amounts due and payable under the terms of insurance
36 policies; and

37 (f) Amounts distributable from a trust or custodial fund
38 established under a plan to provide health, welfare, pension, vacation,

1 severance, retirement, death, stock purchase, profit sharing, employee
2 savings, supplemental unemployment insurance, or similar benefits.

3 (11) "Last known address" means a description of the location of
4 the apparent owner sufficient for the purpose of the delivery of mail.

5 (12) "Owner" means a depositor in the case of a deposit, a
6 beneficiary in case of a trust other than a deposit in trust, a
7 creditor, claimant, or payee in the case of other intangible property,
8 or a person having a legal or equitable interest in property subject to
9 this chapter or his legal representative.

10 (13) "Person" means an individual, business association, state or
11 other government, governmental subdivision or agency, public
12 corporation, public authority, estate, trust, two or more persons
13 having a joint or common interest, ~~((or))~~ any other legal or commercial
14 entity, or the United States or any instrumentality of the United
15 States.

16 (14) "State" means any state, district, commonwealth, territory,
17 insular possession, or any other area subject to the legislative
18 authority of the United States.

19 (15) "Third party bank check" means any instrument drawn against a
20 customer's account with a banking organization or financial
21 organization on which the banking organization or financial
22 organization is only secondarily liable.

23 (16) "Utility" means a person who owns or operates for public use
24 any plant, equipment, property, franchise, or license for the
25 transmission of communications or the production, storage,
26 transmission, sale, delivery, or furnishing of electricity, water,
27 steam, or gas.

28 **Sec. 2.** RCW 63.29.130 and 1983 c 179 s 13 are each amended to read
29 as follows:

30 Intangible property held for the owner by a court, state or other
31 government, governmental subdivision or agency, public corporation,
32 ~~((or))~~ public authority ~~((which))~~, or the United States or any
33 instrumentality of the United States that remains unclaimed by the
34 owner for more than two years after becoming payable or distributable
35 is presumed abandoned.

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 63.29.020 and 1992 c 122 s 1 are each amended to read
37 as follows:

1 (1) Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, all intangible
2 property, including any income or increment derived therefrom, less any
3 lawful charges, that is held, issued, or owing in the ordinary course
4 of the holder's business and has remained unclaimed by the owner for
5 more than five years after it became payable or distributable is
6 presumed abandoned.

7 (2) Property, with the exception of unredeemed Washington state
8 lottery tickets and unrepresented winning parimutuel tickets, is payable
9 and distributable for the purpose of this chapter notwithstanding the
10 owner's failure to make demand or to present any instrument or document
11 required to receive payment.

12 (3) This chapter does not apply to claims drafts issued by
13 insurance companies representing offers to settle claims unliquidated
14 in amount or settled by subsequent drafts or other means.

15 (4) This chapter does not apply to property covered by chapter
16 63.26 RCW.

17 (5) This chapter does not apply to used clothing, umbrellas, bags,
18 luggage, or other used personal effects if such property is disposed of
19 by the holder as follows:

20 (a) In the case of personal effects of negligible value, the
21 property is destroyed; or

22 (b) The property is donated to a bona fide charity.

23 (6) This chapter does not apply to personal papers and personal
24 effects retained by the owner of a self-service storage facility
25 following a sale conducted under RCW 19.150.080.

26 **Sec. 4.** RCW 63.29.165 and 1988 c 240 s 21 are each amended to read
27 as follows:

28 The ((~~personal papers and personal effects held by the owner and~~
29 ~~the~~)) excess proceeds of a sale conducted pursuant to RCW 19.150.080 by
30 an owner of a self-service storage facility to satisfy the lien and
31 costs of storage which are not claimed by the occupant of the storage
32 space or any other person which remains unclaimed for more than six
33 months are presumed abandoned.

34 **Sec. 5.** RCW 19.150.060 and 1988 c 240 s 7 are each amended to read
35 as follows:

36 If a notice has been sent, as required by RCW 19.150.040, and the
37 total sum due has not been paid as of the date specified in the

1 preliminary lien notice, the lien proposed by this notice attaches as
2 of that date and the owner may deny an occupant access to the space,
3 enter the space, inventory the goods therein, and remove any property
4 found therein to a place of safe keeping. The owner shall then serve
5 by personal service or send to the occupant, addressed to the
6 occupant's last known address and to the alternative address specified
7 in RCW 19.150.120(2) by certified mail, postage prepaid, a notice of
8 lien sale or notice of disposal which shall state all of the following:

9 (1) That the occupant's right to use the storage space has
10 terminated and that the occupant no longer has access to the stored
11 property.

12 (2) That the stored property is subject to a lien, and the amount
13 of the lien accrued and to accrue prior to the date required to be
14 specified in subsection (3) of this section.

15 (3) That the property, other than personal papers and personal
16 effects, may be sold to satisfy the lien after a specified date which
17 is not less than fourteen days from the date of mailing the lien sale
18 notice, or a minimum of forty-two days after the date when any part of
19 the rent or other charges due from the occupants remain unpaid,
20 whichever is later, unless the amount of the lien is paid. If the
21 total value of property in the storage space is less than one hundred
22 dollars, the owner may, instead of sale, dispose of the property in any
23 reasonable manner, subject to the restrictions of RCW 19.150.080(~~(+3)~~)
24 (4).

25 (4) That any excess proceeds of the sale or other disposition under
26 RCW 19.150.080(2) over the lien amount and costs of sale (~~and any~~
27 ~~personal papers and personal effects~~) will be retained by the owner
28 and may be reclaimed by the occupant, or claimed by another person, at
29 any time for a period of six months from the sale and that thereafter
30 the proceeds (~~and personal papers and effects~~) will be turned over to
31 the state as abandoned property as provided in RCW 63.29.165.

32 (5) That any personal papers and personal effects will be retained
33 by the owner and may be reclaimed by the occupant at any time for a
34 period of six months from the sale or other disposition of property and
35 that thereafter the owner may dispose of the personal papers and
36 effects in a reasonable manner, subject to the restrictions of RCW
37 19.150.080(3).

38 (6) That if the occupant was served with notice of the lien sale by
39 mail, the occupant within six months after the date of the sale may

1 repurchase from any purchaser or subsequent purchaser any of the
2 occupant's property sold pursuant to RCW 19.150.080 at the price paid
3 by the original purchaser.

4 ~~((+6+))~~ (7) That if notice of the lien sale was by personal
5 service, the occupant has no right to repurchase any property sold at
6 the lien sale.

7 **Sec. 6.** RCW 19.150.080 and 1988 c 240 s 9 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 (1) After the expiration of the time given in the notice of lien
10 sale pursuant to RCW 19.150.060, the property, other than personal
11 papers and personal effects, may be sold or disposed of in a reasonable
12 manner.

13 (2)(a) If the property has a value of one hundred dollars or more,
14 the sale shall be conducted in a commercially reasonable manner, and,
15 after deducting the amount of the lien and costs of sale, the owner
16 shall retain any excess proceeds of the sale on the occupant's behalf.
17 The occupant, or any other person having a court order or other
18 judicial process against the property, may claim the excess proceeds,
19 or a portion thereof sufficient to satisfy the particular claim, at any
20 time within six months of the date of sale.

21 (b) If the property has a value of less than one hundred dollars,
22 the property may be disposed of in a reasonable manner.

23 (3) Personal papers and personal effects that are not reclaimed by
24 the occupant within six months of a sale under subsection (2)(a) of
25 this section or other disposition under subsection (2)(b) of this
26 section may be disposed of in a reasonable manner.

27 (4) No employee or owner, or family member of an employee or owner,
28 may acquire, directly or indirectly, the property sold pursuant to
29 subsection (2)(a) of this section or disposed of pursuant to subsection
30 (2)(b) of this section, or personal papers and personal effects
31 disposed of under subsection (3) of this section.

32 ~~((+4+))~~ (5) The owner is entitled to retain any interest earned on
33 the excess proceeds until the excess proceeds are claimed by another
34 person or are turned over to the state as abandoned property pursuant
35 to RCW 63.29.165.

36 ~~((+5+))~~ (6) After the sale or other disposition pursuant to this
37 section has been completed, the owner shall provide an accounting of
38 the disposition of the proceeds of the sale or other disposition to the

1 occupant at the occupant's last known address and at the alternative
2 address.

3 **Sec. 7.** RCW 63.29.170 and 1983 c 179 s 17 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) A person holding property presumed abandoned and subject to
6 custody as unclaimed property under this chapter shall report to the
7 department concerning the property as provided in this section.

8 (2) The report must be verified and must include:

9 (a) Except with respect to travelers checks and money orders, the
10 name, if known, and last known address, if any, of each person
11 appearing from the records of the holder to be the owner of property of
12 the value of twenty-five dollars or more presumed abandoned under this
13 chapter;

14 (b) In the case of unclaimed funds of twenty-five dollars or more
15 held or owing under any life or endowment insurance policy or annuity
16 contract, the full name and last known address of the insured or
17 annuitant and of the beneficiary according to the records of the
18 insurance company holding or owing the funds;

19 (c) In the case of the contents of a safe deposit box or other
20 safekeeping repository or in the case of other tangible property, a
21 description of the property and the place where it is held and where it
22 may be inspected by the department, and any amounts owing to the
23 holder;

24 (d) The nature and identifying number, if any, or description of
25 the property and the amount appearing from the records to be due, but
26 items of value under twenty-five dollars each may be reported in the
27 aggregate;

28 (e) The date the property became payable, demandable, or
29 returnable, and the date of the last transaction with the apparent
30 owner with respect to the property; and

31 (f) Other information the department prescribes by rule as
32 necessary for the administration of this chapter.

33 (3) If the person holding property presumed abandoned and subject
34 to custody as unclaimed property is a successor to other persons who
35 previously held the property for the apparent owner or the holder has
36 changed his name while holding the property, he shall file with his
37 report all known names and addresses of each previous holder of the
38 property.

1 (4) The report must be filed before November 1 of each year and
2 shall include all property presumed abandoned and subject to custody as
3 unclaimed property under this chapter that is in the holder's
4 possession as of the preceding June (~~(30, next preceding, but the~~
5 ~~report of any life insurance company must be filed before May 1 of each~~
6 ~~year as of December 31 next preceding)) 30th. On written request by
7 any person required to file a report, the department may postpone the
8 reporting date.~~

9 (5) Not more than one hundred twenty days before filing the report
10 required by this section, the holder in possession of property presumed
11 abandoned and subject to custody as unclaimed property under this
12 chapter shall send written notice to the apparent owner at his last
13 known address informing him that the holder is in possession of
14 property subject to this chapter if:

15 (i) The holder has in its records an address for the apparent owner
16 which the holder's records do not disclose to be inaccurate,

17 (ii) The claim of the apparent owner is not barred by the statute
18 of limitations, and

19 (iii) The property has a value of seventy-five dollars or more.

20 **Sec. 8.** RCW 63.29.190 and 1991 c 311 s 7 are each amended to read
21 as follows:

22 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this
23 section, a person who is required to file a report under RCW
24 63.29.170(~~(, within six months after the final date for filing the~~
25 ~~report as required by RCW 63.29.170,)) shall pay or deliver to the
26 department all abandoned property required to be reported at the time
27 of filing the report.~~

28 (2) Counties, cities, towns, and other municipal and quasi-
29 municipal corporations that hold funds representing warrants canceled
30 pursuant to RCW 36.22.100 and 39.56.040, uncashed checks, excess
31 proceeds from property tax and irrigation district foreclosures, and
32 property tax overpayments or refunds may retain the funds until the
33 owner notifies them and establishes ownership as provided in RCW
34 63.29.135. Counties, cities, towns, or other municipal or quasi-
35 municipal corporations shall provide to the department a report of
36 property it is holding pursuant to this section. The report shall
37 identify the property and owner in the manner provided in RCW 63.29.170

1 and the department shall publish the information as provided in RCW
2 63.29.180.

3 (3) The contents of a safe deposit box or other safekeeping
4 repository presumed abandoned under RCW 63.29.160 and reported under
5 RCW 63.29.170 shall be paid or delivered to the department within six
6 months after the final date for filing the report required by RCW
7 63.29.170.

8 ~~((2))~~ If the owner establishes the right to receive the abandoned
9 property to the satisfaction of the holder before the property has been
10 delivered or it appears that for some other reason the presumption of
11 abandonment is erroneous, the holder need not pay or deliver the
12 property to the department, and the property will no longer be presumed
13 abandoned. In that case, the holder shall file with the department a
14 verified written explanation of the proof of claim or of the error in
15 the presumption of abandonment.

16 ~~((3) Property reported under RCW 63.29.170 for which the holder is~~
17 ~~not required to report the name of the apparent owner must be delivered~~
18 ~~to the department at the time of filing the report.))~~

19 (4) The holder of an interest under RCW 63.29.100 shall deliver a
20 duplicate certificate or other evidence of ownership if the holder does
21 not issue certificates of ownership to the department. Upon delivery
22 of a duplicate certificate to the department, the holder and any
23 transfer agent, registrar, or other person acting for or on behalf of
24 a holder in executing or delivering the duplicate certificate is
25 relieved of all liability of every kind in accordance with RCW
26 63.29.200 to every person, including any person acquiring the original
27 certificate or the duplicate of the certificate issued to the
28 department, for any losses or damages resulting to any person by the
29 issuance and delivery to the department of the duplicate certificate.

30 **Sec. 9.** RCW 63.29.180 and 1986 c 84 s 1 are each amended to read
31 as follows:

32 (1) The department shall cause a notice to be published not later
33 than ~~((March 1, or in the case of property reported by life insurance~~
34 ~~companies,))~~ September 1, immediately following the report required by
35 RCW 63.29.170 at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in a
36 newspaper of general circulation in the county of this state in which
37 is located the last known address of any person to be named in the
38 notice. If no address is listed or the address is outside this state,

1 the notice must be published in the county in which the holder of the
2 property has its principal place of business within this state.

3 (2) The published notice must be entitled "Notice of Names of
4 Persons Appearing to be Owners of Abandoned Property" and contain:

5 (a) The names in alphabetical order and last known address, if any,
6 of persons listed in the report and entitled to notice within the
7 county as specified in subsection (1) of this section; and

8 (b) A statement that information concerning the property and the
9 name and last known address of the holder may be obtained by any person
10 possessing an interest in the property by addressing an inquiry to the
11 department(~~(; and~~

12 ~~(c) A statement that if proof of claim is not presented by the~~
13 ~~owner to the holder and the owner's right to receive the property is~~
14 ~~not established to the holder's satisfaction before April 20, or, in~~
15 ~~the case of property reported by life insurance companies, before~~
16 ~~October 20, the property will be placed not later than May 1, or in the~~
17 ~~case of property reported by life insurance companies, not later than~~
18 ~~November 1, in the custody of the department and all further claims~~
19 ~~must thereafter be directed to the department)).~~

20 (3) The department is not required to publish in the notice any
21 items of less than seventy-five dollars unless the department considers
22 their publication to be in the public interest.

23 (4) Not later than (~~March 1, or in the case of property reported~~
24 ~~by life insurance companies, not later than)) September 1, immediately
25 following the report required by RCW 63.29.170, the department shall
26 mail a notice to each person whose last known address is listed in the
27 report and who appears to be entitled to property of the value of
28 seventy-five dollars or more presumed abandoned under this chapter and
29 any beneficiary of a life or endowment insurance policy or annuity
30 contract for whom the department has a last known address.~~

31 (5) The mailed notice must contain:

32 (a) A statement that, according to a report filed with the
33 department, property is being held to which the addressee appears
34 entitled; and

35 (b) The name and last known address of the person holding the
36 property and any necessary information regarding the changes of name
37 and last known address of the holder(~~(; and~~

38 ~~(c) A statement that, if satisfactory proof of claim is not~~
39 ~~presented by the owner to the holder by the date specified in the~~

1 ~~published notice, the property will be placed in the custody of the~~
2 ~~department and all further claims must be directed to the department)).~~

3 (6) This section is not applicable to sums payable on travelers
4 checks, money orders, and other written instruments presumed abandoned
5 under RCW 63.29.040.

6 **Sec. 10.** RCW 63.29.220 and 1983 c 179 s 22 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section
9 the department, within ~~((three))~~ five years after the receipt of
10 abandoned property, shall sell it to the highest bidder at public sale
11 in whatever city in the state affords in the judgment of the department
12 the most favorable market for the property involved. The department
13 may decline the highest bid and reoffer the property for sale if in the
14 judgment of the department the bid is insufficient. If in the judgment
15 of the department the probable cost of sale exceeds the value of the
16 property, it need not be offered for sale. Any sale held under this
17 section must be preceded by a single publication of notice, at least
18 three weeks in advance of sale, in a newspaper of general circulation
19 in the county in which the property is to be sold.

20 (2) Securities listed on an established stock exchange must be sold
21 at prices prevailing at the time of sale on the exchange. Other
22 securities may be sold over the counter at prices prevailing at the
23 time of sale or by any other method the department considers advisable.
24 All securities may be sold over the counter at prices prevailing at the
25 time of the sale, or by any other method the department deems
26 advisable.

27 (3) Unless the department considers it to be in the best interest
28 of the state to do otherwise, all securities, other than those presumed
29 abandoned under RCW 63.29.100, delivered to the department must be held
30 for at least one year before being sold.

31 (4) Unless the department considers it to be in the best interest
32 of the state to do otherwise, all securities presumed abandoned under
33 RCW 63.29.100 and delivered to the department must be held for at least
34 three years before being sold. If the department sells any securities
35 delivered pursuant to RCW 63.29.100 before the expiration of the three-
36 year period, any person making a claim pursuant to this chapter before
37 the end of the three-year period is entitled to either the proceeds of
38 the sale of the securities or the market value of the securities at the

1 time the claim is made, whichever amount is greater, less any deduction
2 for fees pursuant to RCW 63.29.230(2). A person making a claim under
3 this chapter after the expiration of this period is entitled to receive
4 either the securities delivered to the department by the holder, if
5 they still remain in the hands of the department, or the proceeds
6 received from sale, less any amounts deducted pursuant to RCW
7 63.29.230(2), but no person has any claim under this chapter against
8 the state, the holder, any transfer agent, registrar, or other person
9 acting for or on behalf of a holder for any appreciation in the value
10 of the property occurring after delivery by the holder to the
11 department.

12 (5) The purchaser of property at any sale conducted by the
13 department pursuant to this chapter takes the property free of all
14 claims of the owner or previous holder thereof and of all persons
15 claiming through or under them. The department shall execute all
16 documents necessary to complete the transfer of ownership.

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