
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1166

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By House Committee on Government Administration (originally sponsored by Representatives Romero, D. Schmidt, Scott, Wolfe, Dunn and Mason)

Read first time 02/03/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to property; and amending RCW 63.21.010 and
2 63.21.030.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 63.21.010 and 1979 ex.s. c 85 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Any person who finds property that is not unlawful to possess,
7 the owner of which is unknown, and who wishes to claim the found
8 property, shall:

9 ~~((1))~~ (a) Within seven days of the finding acquire a signed
10 statement setting forth an appraisal of the current market value of the
11 property prepared by a qualified person engaged in buying or selling
12 like items or by a district court judge, unless the found property is
13 cash; and

14 ~~((2))~~ (b) Within seven days report the find of property and
15 surrender, if requested, the property and a copy of the evidence of the
16 value of the property to the chief law enforcement officer, or his or
17 her designated representative, of the governmental entity where the
18 property was found, and serve written notice upon the officer of the

1 finder's intent to claim the property if the owner does not make out
2 his or her right to it under this chapter(~~(; and~~

3 ~~(3) Within thirty days of the finding cause notice of the finding~~
4 ~~to be published at least once a week for two successive weeks in a~~
5 ~~newspaper of general circulation in the county where the property was~~
6 ~~found)).~~

7 (2) Within thirty days of the report the governmental entity shall
8 cause notice of the finding to be published at least once a week for
9 two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the
10 county where the property was found, unless the appraised value of the
11 property is less than the cost of publishing notice. If the value is
12 less than the cost of publishing notice, the governmental entity may
13 cause notice to be posted or published in other media or formats that
14 do not incur expense to the governmental entity.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 63.21.030 and 1979 ex.s. c 85 s 3 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) The found property shall be released to the finder and become
18 the property of the finder sixty days after the find was reported to
19 the appropriate officer if no owner has been found, or sixty days after
20 the final disposition of any judicial or other official proceeding
21 involving the property, whichever is later. The property shall be
22 released only after the finder has presented evidence of(~~(;~~

23 ~~(a) Compliance with the publication requirement of this chapter;~~
24 ~~and~~

25 ~~(b) If the property is valued at more than twenty-five dollars,~~)
26 payment to the treasurer of the governmental entity handling the found
27 property, the amount of ~~((five))~~ ten dollars(~~(, or ten percent of the~~
28 ~~appraised value of the property, whichever is greater))~~ plus the amount
29 of the cost of publication of notice incurred by the government entity
30 pursuant to RCW 63.21.010, which amount shall be deposited in the
31 general fund of the governmental entity. If the appraised value of the
32 property is less than the cost of publication of notice of the finding,
33 then the finder is not required to pay any fee.

34 (2) When ninety days have passed after the found property was
35 reported to the appropriate officer, or ninety days after the final
36 disposition of a judicial or other proceeding involving the found
37 property, and the finder has not completed the requirements of this
38 chapter, the finder's claim shall be deemed to have expired and the

1 found property may be disposed of as unclaimed property under chapter
2 63.32 or 63.40 RCW. Such laws shall also apply whenever a finder
3 states in writing that he or she has no intention of claiming the found
4 property.

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