
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1764

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House Local Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Chambers, Goodman, Mosbrucker, Corry, Gildon, Klippert, DeBolt, Fey, Van Werven, MacEwen, Riccelli, McCaslin, and Young)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to adjusting monetary thresholds for found
2 property; and amending RCW 63.21.050.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 63.21.050 and 1979 ex.s. c 85 s 5 are each amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The chief law enforcement officer or his or her designated
7 representative to whom a finder surrenders property, ~~((shall))~~ must:

8 ~~((1))~~ (a) Advise the finder if the found property is illegal
9 for him or her to possess;

10 ~~((2))~~ (b) Advise the finder if the found property is to be held
11 as evidence in judicial or other official proceedings;

12 ~~((3))~~ (c) Advise the finder in writing of the procedures to be
13 followed in claiming the found property;

14 ~~((4))~~ (d) If the property is valued at ~~((twenty-five))~~ one
15 hundred dollars or less adjusted for inflation under subsection (2)
16 of this section, allow the finder to retain the property if it is
17 determined there is no reason for the officer to retain the property;

18 ~~((5))~~ (e) If the property exceeds ~~((twenty-five))~~ one hundred
19 dollars adjusted for inflation under subsection (2) of this section
20 in value and has been requested to be surrendered to the law
21 enforcement agency, retain the property for sixty days before it can

1 be claimed by the finder under this chapter, unless the owner (~~shall~~
2 ~~have~~) has recovered the property;

3 (~~(6)~~) (f) If the property is held as evidence in judicial or
4 other official proceedings, retain the property for sixty days after
5 the final disposition of the judicial or other official proceeding,
6 before it can be claimed by the finder or owner under the provisions
7 of this chapter;

8 (~~(7)~~) (g) After the required number of days have passed, and if
9 no owner has been found, surrender the property to the finder
10 according to the requirements of this chapter; or

11 (~~(8)~~) (h) If neither the finder nor the owner claim the
12 property retained by the officer within thirty days of the time when
13 the claim can be made, the property (~~shall~~) must be disposed of as
14 unclaimed property under chapter 63.32 or 63.40 RCW.

15 (2)(a) The office of financial management must adjust the dollar
16 thresholds established in subsection (1)(d) and (e) of this section
17 for inflation every five years, beginning July 1, 2025, based upon
18 changes in the Seattle consumer price index during that time period.
19 The office of financial management must calculate the new dollar
20 threshold and transmit the new dollar threshold, rounded up to the
21 nearest dollar, to the office of the code reviser for publication in
22 the Washington State Register at least one month before the new
23 dollar threshold is to take effect.

24 (b) For the purposes of determining the thresholds in subsection
25 (1)(d) and (e) of this section, the chief law enforcement officer or
26 his or her designated representative must use the latest thresholds
27 published by the office of financial management in the Washington
28 State Register under (a) of this subsection.

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