

---

HOUSE BILL 1764

---

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Chambers, Goodman, Mosbrucker, Corry, Gildon, Klippert, DeBolt, Fey, Van Werven, MacEwen, Riccelli, McCaslin, and Young

Read first time 01/30/19. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

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 it to the office of the code reviser for  
21 publication in the Washington State Register at least one month  
22 before the new dollar threshold is to take effect.

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

--- END ---