



Substitute Senate Bill No. 1434

Public Act No. 25-81

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE TREASURER'S
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS CONCERNING
UNCLAIMED PROPERTY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 3-56a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

As used in this part and section 2 of this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Apparent owner" means the person whose name appears on the records of the holder as the person entitled to the property held, issued or owing by the holder;

(2) "Banking organization" means any state bank and trust company, national banking association or savings bank engaged in business in this state;

(3) "Business association" means a corporation, joint stock company, partnership, unincorporated association, joint venture, limited liability company, business trust, trust company, safe deposit company, financial organization, insurance company, person engaged in the business of operating or controlling a mutual fund, utility or other

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1434

business entity consisting of one or more persons, whether or not for profit;

(4) "Financial organization" means any savings and loan association, credit union or investment company;

(5) "Funeral service contract" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-200;

[(5)] (6) "Gift certificate" means a record evidencing a promise, made for consideration, by the seller or issuer of the record that goods or services will be provided to the owner of the record to the value shown in the record and includes, but is not limited to, a record that contains a microprocessor chip, magnetic stripe or other means for the storage of information that is prefunded and for which the value is decremented upon each use, a gift card, an electronic gift card, stored-value card or certificate, a store card, or a similar record or card, but "gift certificate" does not include prepaid calling cards regulated under section 42-370, prepaid commercial mobile radio services, as defined in 47 CFR 20.3 or general-use prepaid cards, as defined in section 42-460a;

[(6)] (7) "Holder" means any person in possession of property subject to this part which belongs to another, or who is trustee in case of a trust, or who is indebted to another on an obligation subject to this part;

[(7)] (8) "Insurance company" means an association, corporation or fraternal or mutual benefit organization, whether or not for profit, engaged in the business of providing life endowments, annuities or insurance, including accident, burial, casualty, credit life, contract performance, dental, disability, fidelity, fire, health, hospitalization, illness, life, malpractice, marine, mortgage, surety, wage protection and workers' compensation insurance;

[(8)] (9) "Last-known address" means [a description of the location of the apparent owner sufficient for the purpose of delivery of mail] any

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1434

description, code or other indication of the location of the apparent owner that identifies the state, even if such description, code or indication is insufficient for the purpose of the delivery of first-class United States mail to the apparent owner;

[(9)] (10) "Mineral" means gas; oil; other gaseous, liquid [,] and solid hydrocarbons; oil shale; cement material; sand and gravel; road material; building stone; chemical raw material; gemstone; fissionable and nonfissionable ores; colloidal and other clay; steam and other geothermal resource; or any other substance defined as a mineral by the law of this state;

[(10)] (11) "Mineral proceeds" means amounts payable for the extraction, production or sale of minerals, or, upon the abandonment of those payments, all payments that become payable thereafter, and "mineral proceeds" includes amounts payable: (A) For the acquisition and retention of a mineral lease, including bonuses, royalties, compensatory royalties, shut-in royalties, minimum royalties and delay rentals; (B) for the extraction, production or sale of minerals, including net revenue interests, royalties, overriding royalties, extraction payments and production payments; and (C) under an agreement or option, including a joint operating agreement, unit agreement, pooling agreement and farm-out agreement;

[(11)] (12) "Owner" means a depositor in case of a deposit, a beneficiary in case of a trust, a creditor, claimant or payee in case of other choses in action, or any person having a legal or equitable interest in property subject to this part, or such person's legal representative;

[(12)] (13) "Person" means any individual, business association, estate, trust, government, governmental subdivision, agency or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity;

[(13)] (14) "Property" means realty or personalty, tangible or

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1434

intangible, and includes, but is not limited to, virtual currency;

[(14)] (15) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form;

[(15)] (16) "Treasurer" means the Treasurer of the state of Connecticut;

[(16)] (17) "Utility" means a person who owns or operates for public use any plant, equipment, real property, franchise or license for the transmission of communications or the production, storage, transmission, sale, delivery or furnishing of electricity, water, steam or gas; and

[(17)] (18) "Virtual currency" has the same meaning as provided in section 36a-596.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Any property held pursuant to a funeral service contract that is in effect on or after July 1, 2025, for the purposes of part III of chapter 32 of the general statutes, shall be considered payable or distributable on the earliest of: (1) When the holder has received affirmative notification of the death of a beneficiary associated with a funeral services contract for which the holder is maintaining an escrow account; (2) the date the beneficiary would have attained the age of one hundred ten years; or (3) seventy-five years after the funeral service contract was executed.

(b) Any property held pursuant to a funeral service contract shall be presumed abandoned unless the beneficiary or purchaser has indicated an interest in such property not later than one year after such property becomes payable or distributable pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. If the annual statements that are required to be sent under section 42-202 of the general statutes were returned as undeliverable during the preceding year, the holder shall, for purposes of providing notice to the owner pursuant to section 3-65a of the general statutes, as

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1434

amended by this act, make reasonable efforts to determine a current and proper mailing address for the owner.

(c) Not later than March first of each year, the holder shall obtain from the funeral service establishment a list of all properties held by such holder pursuant to a funeral service contract that was entered into seventy-five years or more ago, for which (1) the funeral service establishment has received affirmative notification of the death of the beneficiary, or (2) the beneficiary has reached the age of one hundred ten years.

(d) For purposes of part III of chapter 32 of the general statutes, the escrow agent, insurance company or any other person holding or maintaining such property shall be deemed the holder, and the purchaser of such property shall be deemed the owner.

Sec. 3. Section 3-65a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) [Not less than one hundred eighty days before] Between July first and September thirtieth, inclusive, of the calendar year in which a presumption of abandonment is to take effect, [in respect to property subject to section 3-60b or 3-60c and within one year before a presumption of abandonment is to take effect in respect to all other property subject to this part, and] if the owner's claim is not barred by law, the holder shall notify the owner thereof and take reasonable steps to prevent abandonment from being presumed. Such notice shall be provided, at a minimum, by [sending such notice by first class] (1) first-class mail directed to the owner's last-known address, [and,] if such address is sufficient for the purpose of the delivery of first-class United States mail and the cumulative value of all property belonging to the owner is fifty dollars or greater, and (2) electronic mail directed to the owner's last-known electronic mail address, regardless of the value of the property, if a holder has received an owner's consent for the

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1434

electronic delivery of any notices that are required by law. [, by electronic mail directed to the owner's last-known electronic mail address,] Such notice shall inform the owner that evidence of interest must be indicated as required by this part or such property will be transferred to the Treasurer and will be subject to escheat to the state. If the property presumed abandoned is a security, virtual currency or tangible property from a safe deposit box, the holder's notice shall indicate that such property may be liquidated either prior to or following its reporting to the Treasurer and that after such liquidation will be limited to the proceeds of such liquidation. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require an owner to consent to the electronic delivery of notices for communications regarding unclaimed property.

(b) Not later than [ninety days after] March thirty-first following the close of the calendar year in which property is presumed abandoned, the holder shall pay or deliver such property to the Treasurer and file, on forms that the Treasurer shall provide, a report of unclaimed property. Each report shall be verified and shall include: (1) The name, if known, last-known physical and electronic mail address, if any, and last-known telephone number, if any, of each person appearing to be the owner of such property; (2) in case of unclaimed funds of an insurance company, the full name of the insured or annuitant and beneficiary and his or her last-known address appearing on the insurance company's records; (3) the nature and identifying number, if any, or description of the property and the amount appearing from the records to be due; (4) the date when the property became payable, demandable or returnable and the date of the last transaction with the owner with respect to the property; (5) if the holder is a successor to other holders, or if the holder has changed the holder's name, all prior known names and addresses of each holder of the property; and (6) such other information as the Treasurer may require.

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1434

(c) Verification, if made by a partnership, shall be executed by a partner; if made by an unincorporated association or private corporation, by an officer; and if made by a public corporation, by its chief fiscal officer.

(d) (1) The Treasurer shall keep a permanent record of all reports submitted to the Treasurer pursuant to this section.

(2) A holder shall retain the following records for at least ten years after the date any report was filed under this section or the last date a timely report was due to be filed, unless a shorter retention period is provided by the Treasurer: (A) The information required to be included in the report, (B) the date, place and nature of the circumstances that gave rise to the property right, and (C) any documentation concerning items considered for reporting that were not ultimately determined to represent unclaimed property, for verification of whether the holder has complied with its reporting obligation under this section.

(e) Except for claims paid under section 3-67a and except as provided in subsection (e) of section 3-70a, no owner shall be entitled to any interest, income or other increment which may accrue to property presumed abandoned from and after the date of payment or delivery to the Treasurer.

(f) The Treasurer may decline to receive any property the value of which is less than the cost of giving notice or holding sale, or may postpone taking possession until a sufficient sum accumulates.

(g) The Treasurer, or any officer or agency designated by the Treasurer, may examine any person on oath or affirmation, or the records of any person or any agent of the person including, but not limited to, a dividend disbursement agent or transfer agent of a business association, banking organization or insurance company that is the holder of property presumed abandoned to determine whether the

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1434

person or agent has complied with this part. The Treasurer may conduct the examination even if the person or agent believes the person or agent is not in possession of any property that must be paid, delivered or reported under this part. The Treasurer may bring an action in a court of appropriate jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this part.

(h) A record of the issuance of a check, draft or similar instrument is prima facie evidence of the obligation represented by the check, draft or similar instrument. In claiming property from a holder who is also the issuer, the Treasurer's burden of proof as to the existence and amount of the property and its abandonment is satisfied by showing issuance of the instrument and passage of the requisite period of abandonment. Defenses of payment, satisfaction, discharge and want of consideration are affirmative defenses that shall be established by the holder.

(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the holder of personal property presumed abandoned pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 3-57a or section 3-57b shall (1) sell such property and pay the proceeds arising from such sale, excluding any charges that may lawfully be withheld, to the Treasurer, unless such property consists of military medals, in which case such property shall not be sold, and (2) provide the Treasurer with records deemed appropriate by the Treasurer of property so presumed abandoned. The holder shall complete the sale of such property and deliver the net proceeds to the Treasurer not later than thirty days after filing the report required under subsection (b) of this section. A holder of tangible, personal property may contract with a third party to store and sell such property and to pay the proceeds arising from such sale, excluding any charges that may be lawfully withheld, to the Treasurer, provided the third party holds a surety bond or other form of insurance coverage with respect to such activities. Any holder who sells property pursuant to subsection (a) of section 3-57a or section 3-57b and remits the excess proceeds to the Treasurer or who transmits tangible, personal

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1434

property to a bonded or insured third party for such purposes, shall not be responsible for any claims related to the sale or transmission of the property or proceeds to the Treasurer. If the Treasurer exempts any such property from being remitted or sold pursuant to this subsection, whether by regulations or guidelines, the holder of such property may dispose of such property in any manner such holder deems appropriate and such holder shall not be responsible for any claims related to the disposition of such property or any claims to the property itself. For purposes of the sale of personal property presumed abandoned under subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 3-57a or section 3-57b, charges that may lawfully be withheld include costs of storage, appraisal, advertising and sales commissions as well as lawful charges owing under the contract governing the safe deposit box rental.

(j) In the event military medals are presumed abandoned pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 3-57a, a banking or financial organization shall transmit such medals to the Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with procedures established by the Treasurer. The Treasurer and Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a memorandum of understanding concerning the handling of such medals and the Department of Veterans Affairs shall hold such medals in custody pursuant to such memorandum. The Treasurer may make any information obtained pursuant to this section, including any photograph or other visual depiction of a military medal but excluding Social Security numbers, available to the public to facilitate the identification of the original owner of such medal or such owner's heirs or beneficiaries.

Sec. 4. Section 3-70a of the general statutes is amended by adding subsections (h) and (i) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(NEW) (h) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, where the sole owner of the abandoned property is reported as the office of the Secretary of the State, State Comptroller, Attorney

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1434

General or State Treasurer or a department within the executive branch, as listed in section 4-38c, the Treasurer may submit a report to the Office of Policy and Management identifying the value of each property escheated and the applicable office or department that is the reported owner. Unless the Office of Policy and Management directs otherwise, the property shall escheat to the state, in accordance with this part, three months following the submission of such report and the Treasurer shall reclassify such property as property of the state instead of unclaimed property.

(NEW) (i) The Treasurer may establish a program that permits the owner of a claim allowed under this section for property, funds or money to donate such claim in its entirety to a charitable cause. The Treasurer shall select one or more of the following to be the recipient of donated payments under this subsection: (1) The organ transplant account established in section 17b-288, (2) the AIDS research education account established in section 19a-32a, (3) the endangered species, natural area preserves and watchable wildlife account established in section 22a-27l, (4) the breast cancer research and education account established in section 19a-32b, (5) the safety net services account established in section 17b-112f, (6) the Connecticut Baby Bond Trust established in section 3-36b, (7) the mental health community investment account established in section 17a-451g, or (8) the Military Relief Fund established in section 27-100a. An owner's election to donate an allowed claim payment shall be irrevocable and remittance of the donation shall be considered full payment of the allowed claim. The Treasurer shall prescribe the form that such donation election shall take.

Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 3-66a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(c) [The] For properties with a reported value of fifty dollars or more, the Treasurer shall [notify] send a notice, in a manner deemed

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1434

appropriate by the Treasurer, to each person, other than an individual to whom the Treasurer makes or will make a payment pursuant to subsection (f) of section 3-70a, reported as the apparent owner of unclaimed property that was reported or transferred to the Treasurer during the preceding calendar year and for whom the holder of such property has reported a last-known address [.] in this state sufficient to direct the delivery of first-class United States mail or valid electronic mail address [or telephone number] to the Treasurer. Such notice shall [include information concerning the amount and description of such property] inform the person that such person may have unclaimed property available to claim and the process by which such [owner] person may verify ownership to and claim such property.

Governor's Action:
Approved June 23, 2025