

Title 63

PERSONAL PROPERTY

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Chapter 63.10 RCW CONSUMER LEASES

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63.10.010 Legislative declaration. The leasing of motor vehicles, furniture and fixtures, appliances, commercial equipment, and other personal property has become an important and widespread form of business transaction that is beneficial to the citizens and to the economy of the state. Users of personal property of all types and lessors throughout the state have relied upon the distinct nature of leasing as a modern means of transacting business that creates different relationships and legal consequences from those of lender and borrower in loan transactions and those of seller and buyer in installment sale transactions. The utility of lease transactions and the well-being of the state's economy and of the leasing industry require that leasing be a legally recognized and distinct form of transaction, creating legal relationships and having legal consequences different from loans or installment sales. [1983 c 158 § 1.]

63.10.020 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) The term "adjusted capitalized cost" means the agreed-upon amount that serves as the basis for determining the periodic lease payment, computed by subtracting from the gross capitalized cost any capitalized cost reduction.

(2) The term "gross capitalized cost" means the amount ascribed by the lessor to the vehicle including optional equipment, plus taxes, title, license fees, lease acquisition and administrative fees, insurance premiums, warranty charges, and any other product, service, or amount amortized in the lease. However, any definition of gross capitalized cost adopted by the federal reserve board to be used in the context of mandatory disclosure of the gross capitalized cost to lessees in consumer motor vehicle lease transactions supersedes the definition of gross capitalized cost in this subsection.

(3) The term "capitalized cost reduction" means any payment made by cash, check, or similar means, any manufacturer rebate, and net trade in allowance granted by the lessor at the inception of the lease for the purpose of reducing the gross capitalized cost but does not include any periodic lease

payments due at the inception of the lease or all of the periodic lease payments if they are paid at the inception of the lease.

(4) The term "consumer lease" means a contract of lease or bailment for the use of personal property by a natural person for a period of time exceeding four months, and for a total contractual obligation not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars, primarily for personal, family, or household purposes, whether or not the lessee has the option to purchase or otherwise become the owner of the property at the expiration of the lease, except that such term shall not include any lease which meets the definition of a retail installment contract under RCW 63.14.010 or the definition of a lease-purchase agreement under chapter 63.19 RCW. The twenty-five thousand dollar total contractual obligation in this subsection shall not apply to consumer leases of motor vehicles. The inclusion in a lease of a provision whereby the lessee's or lessor's liability, at the end of the lease period or upon an earlier termination, is based on the value of the leased property at that time, shall not be deemed to make the transaction other than a consumer lease. The term "consumer lease" does not include a lease for agricultural, business, or commercial purposes, or to a government or governmental agency or instrumentality, or to an organization.

(5) The term "lessee" means a natural person who leases or is offered a consumer lease.

(6) The term "lessor" means a person who is regularly engaged in leasing, offering to lease, or arranging to lease under a consumer lease. [1998 c 113 § 1; 1995 c 112 § 1; 1992 c 134 § 15; 1983 c 158 § 2.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.10.030 Liability at expiration of lease—Residual value—Attorneys' fees—Lease terms. (1) Where the lessee's liability on expiration of a consumer lease is based on the estimated residual value of the property, such estimated residual value shall be a reasonable approximation of the anticipated actual fair market value of the property on lease expiration. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the estimated residual value is unreasonable to the extent that the estimated residual value exceeds the actual residual value by more than three times the average payment allocable to a monthly period under the lease. In addition, where the lessee has such liability on expiration of a consumer lease there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the lessor's estimated residual value is not in good faith to the extent that the estimated residual value exceeds the actual residual value by more than three times the average payment allocable to a monthly period under the lease and such lessor shall not collect from the lessee the amount of such excess liability on expiration of a consumer lease unless the lessor brings a successful action with respect to such excess liability. In all actions, the lessor shall pay the lessee's reasonable attorneys' fees. The presumptions stated in this section shall not apply to the extent the excess of estimated over actual residual value is due to physical damage to the property beyond reasonable wear and use, or to excessive use, and the lease may set standards for such wear and use if such standards are not unreasonable. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude the right of a willing lessee to make any mutually agreeable final adjustment with respect to such excess residual liability, pro-

vided such an agreement is reached after termination of the lease.

(2) Penalties or other charges for delinquency, default, or early termination may be specified in the lease but only at an amount which is reasonable in the light of the anticipated or actual harm caused by the delinquency, default, or early termination, the difficulties of proof of loss, and the inconvenience or nonfeasibility of otherwise obtaining an adequate remedy.

(3) If a lease has a residual value provision at the termination of the lease, the lessee may obtain, at his or her expense, a professional appraisal of the leased property by an independent third party agreed to be both parties. Such appraisal shall be final and binding on the parties. [2012 c 117 § 165; 1983 c 158 § 3.]

63.10.040 Lease contracts—Disclosure requirements. (1) In any lease contract subject to this chapter, the following items, as applicable, shall be disclosed:

(a) A brief description of the leased property, sufficient to identify the property to the lessee and lessor.

(b) The total amount of any payment, such as a refundable security deposit paid by cash, check, or similar means, advance payment, capitalized cost reduction, or any trade-in allowance, appropriately identified, to be paid by the lessee at consummation of the lease.

(c) The number, amount, and due dates or periods of payments scheduled under the lease and the total amount of the periodic payments.

(d) The total amount paid or payable by the lessee during the lease term for official fees, registration, certificate of title, license fees, or taxes.

(e) The total amount of all other charges, individually itemized, payable by the lessee to the lessor, which are not included in the periodic payments. This total includes the amount of any liabilities the lease imposes upon the lessee at the end of the term, but excludes the potential difference between the estimated and realized values required to be disclosed under (m) of this subsection.

(f) A brief identification of insurance in connection with the lease including (i) if provided or paid for by the lessor, the types and amounts of coverages and cost to the lessee, or (ii) if not provided or paid for by the lessor, the types and amounts of coverages required of the lessee.

(g) A statement identifying any express warranties or guarantees available to the lessee made by the lessor or manufacturer with respect to the leased property.

(h) An identification of the party responsible for maintaining or servicing the leased property together with a brief description of the responsibility, and a statement of reasonable standards for wear and use, if the lessor sets such standards.

(i) A description of any security interest, other than a security deposit disclosed under (b) of this subsection, held or to be retained by the lessor in connection with the lease and a clear identification of the property to which the security interest relates.

(j) The amount or method of determining the amount of any penalty or other charge for delinquency, default, or late payments.

(k) A statement of whether or not the lessee has the option to purchase the leased property and, if at the end of the lease term, at what price, and, if prior to the end of the lease term, at what time, and the price or method of determining the price.

(l) A statement of the conditions under which the lessee or lessor may terminate the lease prior to the end of the lease term and the amount or method of determining the amount of any penalty or other charge for early termination.

(m) A statement that the lessee shall be liable for the difference between the estimated value of the property and its realized value at early termination or the end of the lease term, if such liability exists.

(n) Where the lessee's liability at early termination or at the end of the lease term is based on the estimated value of the leased property, a statement that the lessee may obtain at the end of the lease term or at early termination, at the lessee's expense, a professional appraisal of the value which could be realized at sale of the leased property by an independent third party agreed to by the lessee and the lessor, which appraisal shall be final and binding on the parties.

(o) Where the lessee's liability at the end of the lease term is based upon the estimated value of the leased property:

(i) The value of the property at consummation of the lease, the itemized total lease obligation at the end of the lease term, and the difference between them.

(ii) That there is a rebuttable presumption that the estimated value of the leased property at the end of the lease term is unreasonable and not in good faith to the extent that it exceeds the realized value by more than three times the average payment allocable to a monthly period, and that the lessor cannot collect the amount of such excess liability unless the lessor brings a successful action in court in which the lessor pays the lessee's attorney's fees, and that this provision regarding the presumption and attorney's fees does not apply to the extent the excess of estimated value over realized value is due to unreasonable wear or use, or excessive use.

(iii) A statement that the requirements of (o)(ii) of this subsection do not preclude the right of a willing lessee to make any mutually agreeable final adjustment regarding such excess liability.

(p) In consumer leases of motor vehicles:

(i) The gross capitalized cost stated as a total and the identity of the components listed in the definition of gross capitalized cost and the respective amount of each component;

(ii) Any capitalized cost reduction stated as a total;

(iii) A statement of adjusted capitalized cost;

(iv) If the lessee trades in a motor vehicle, the amount of any sales tax exemption for the agreed value of the traded vehicle and any reduction in the periodic payments resulting from the application of the sales tax exemption shall be disclosed in the lease contract; and

(v) A statement of the total amount to be paid prior to or at consummation or by delivery, if delivery occurs after consummation. The lessor shall itemize each component by type and amount and shall itemize how the total amount will be paid, by type and amount.

(2) Where disclosures required under this chapter are the same as those required under Title I of the federal consumer protection act (90 Stat. 257, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1667 et seq.),

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which is also known as the federal consumer leasing act, as of the date upon which the consumer lease is executed, disclosures complying with the federal consumer leasing act shall be deemed to comply with the disclosure requirements of this chapter. [1998 c 113 § 2; 1995 c 112 § 2; 1983 c 158 § 4.]

63.10.045 Unlawful acts or practices—Consumer lease of a motor vehicle. Each of the following acts or practices are unlawful in the context of offering a consumer lease of a motor vehicle:

(1) Advertising that is false, deceptive, misleading, or in violation of *12 C.F.R. Sec. 213.5 (a) through (d) and 15 U.S.C. 1667, Regulation M;

(2) Misrepresenting any of the following:

(a) The material terms or conditions of a lease agreement;

(b) That the transaction is a purchase agreement as opposed to a lease agreement; or

(c) The amount of any equity or value the leased vehicle will have at the end of the lease; and

(3) Failure to comply with the disclosure requirements of Title I of the federal consumer protection act (90 Stat. 257, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1667 et seq.), which is also known as the federal consumer leasing act, including, but not limited to, failure to disclose all fees that will be due when a consumer exercises the option to purchase. [1995 c 112 § 3.]

*Reviser's note: 12 C.F.R. Sec. 213.5 (a) through (d) has been amended. See 12 C.F.R. Sec. 213.7 (a) through (f).

63.10.050 Violations—Unfair acts under consumer protection act—Damages. The legislature finds that the practices covered by this chapter are matters vitally affecting the public interest for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. Violations of this chapter are not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business. A violation of this chapter is an unfair or deceptive act or practice in trade or commerce and an unfair method of competition for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW.

Regarding damages awarded under this section, the court may award damages allowed under chapter 19.86 RCW or 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1667d (a) and 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1640, but not both. [1995 c 112 § 4; 1983 c 158 § 5.]

63.10.055 Remedies—Effect of chapter. The provisions of this chapter shall be cumulative and nonexclusive and shall not affect any other remedy available at law or in equity. [1995 c 112 § 5.]

63.10.060 Defense or action of usury—Limitations. No person may plead the defense of usury or maintain any action thereon based upon a transaction heretofore entered into if such transaction:

(1) Constitutes a "consumer lease" as defined in RCW 63.10.020; or

(2) Would constitute such a consumer lease but for the fact that:

(i) The lessee was not a natural person;

(ii) The lease was not primarily for personal, family, or household purposes; or

(iii) The total contractual obligation exceeded twenty-five thousand dollars. [1983 c 158 § 8.]

63.10.070 Dog or cat ownership contracts. A contract entered into on or after July 28, 2019, to transfer ownership of a live dog or cat in which ownership is contingent upon the making of payments over a period of time subsequent to the transfer of possession of the live dog or cat, or provides for or offers the option of transferring ownership of the dog or cat at the end of a lease term, is void and unenforceable. [2019 c 340 § 1.]

Construction—2019 c 340: "Nothing in this act may be construed to apply to contracts for payments to repay an unsecured loan for the purchase of a live dog or cat." [2019 c 340 § 6.]

Additional remedies—Dog or cat ownership contracts—2019 c 340: "In addition to any other remedies provided by law, the consumer taking possession of a live dog or cat that is transferred under a contract declared to be void and unenforceable under section 1, 2, or 3 of this act is deemed the owner of the dog or cat and is also entitled to the return of all amounts the consumer paid under the contract." [2019 c 340 § 5.]

63.10.902 Effective date—1995 c 112. This act shall take effect January 1, 1996. [1995 c 112 § 7.]

Chapter 63.14 RCW

RETAIL INSTALLMENT SALES OF GOODS AND SERVICES

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Consumer leases: Chapter 63.10 RCW.

Interest—Usury: Chapter 19.52 RCW.

63.14.010 Definitions. In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Financial institution" means any bank or trust company, mutual savings bank, credit union, or savings and loan association organized pursuant to the laws of any one of the United States of America or the United States of America, or the laws of a foreign country if also qualified to conduct business in any one of the United States of America or pursuant to the laws of the United States of America;

(2) "Goods" means all chattels personal when purchased primarily for personal, family, or household use and not for commercial or business use, but not including money or, except as provided in the next sentence, things in action. The term includes but is not limited to merchandise certificates or coupons, issued by a retail seller, to be used in their face amount in lieu of cash in exchange for goods or services sold by such a seller and goods which, at the time of sale or subsequently, are to be so affixed to real property as to become a part thereof, whether or not severable therefrom;

(3) "Lender credit card" means a card or device used by a lender credit card agreement pursuant to which the issuer gives to a cardholder residing in this state the privilege of obtaining credit from the issuer or other persons in purchasing or leasing property or services, obtaining loans, or otherwise, and the issuer of which is not: (a) Principally engaged in the business of selling goods; or (b) a financial institution;

(4) "Lender credit card agreement" means an agreement entered into or performed in this state prescribing the terms of retail installment transactions pursuant to which the issuer may, with the buyer's consent, purchase or acquire one or more retail sellers' indebtedness of the buyer under a sales slip or memorandum evidencing the purchase, lease, loan, or otherwise to be paid in accordance with the agreement. The issuer of a lender credit card agreement shall not be principally engaged in the business of selling goods or be a financial institution;

(5) "Official fees" means the amount of the fees prescribed by law and payable to the state, county, or other governmental agency for filing, recording, or otherwise perfecting, and releasing or satisfying, a retained title, lien, or other security interest created by a retail installment transaction;

(6) "Person" means an individual, partnership, joint venture, corporation, association, or any other group, however organized;

(7) "Principal balance" means the sale price of the goods or services which are the subject matter of a retail installment contract less the amount of the buyer's down payment in money or goods or both, plus the amounts, if any, included therein, if a separate identified charge is made therefor and stated in the contract, for insurance, any vehicle dealer administrative fee, any vehicle dealer documentary service fee, and official fees; and the amount actually paid or to be paid by the retail seller pursuant to an agreement with the buyer to discharge a security interest or lien on like-kind goods traded in or lease interest in the circumstance of a lease for like goods being terminated in conjunction with the sale pursuant to a retail installment contract;

(8) "Rate" means the percentage which, when multiplied times the outstanding balance for each month or other installment period, yields the amount of the service charge for such month or period;

(9) "Retail buyer" or "buyer" means a person who buys or agrees to buy goods or obtain services or agrees to have services rendered or furnished, from a retail seller;

(10) "Retail charge agreement," "revolving charge agreement," or "charge agreement" means an agreement between a retail buyer and a retail seller that is entered into or performed in this state and that prescribes the terms of retail installment transactions with one or more sellers which may be made thereunder from time to time and under the terms of which a service charge, as defined in this section, is to be computed in relation to the buyer's unpaid balance from time to time;

(11) "Retail installment contract" or "contract" means a contract, other than a retail charge agreement, a lender credit card agreement, or an instrument reflecting a sale made pursuant thereto, entered into or performed in this state for a retail installment transaction. The term "retail installment contract" may include a chattel mortgage, a conditional sale contract, and a contract in the form of a bailment or a lease if the bailee or lessee contracts to pay as compensation for their use a sum substantially equivalent to or in excess of the value of the goods sold and if it is agreed that the bailee or lessee is bound to become, or for no other or a merely nominal consideration, has the option of becoming the owner of the goods upon full compliance with the provisions of the bailment or lease. The term "retail installment contract" does not include: (a) A "consumer lease," heretofore or hereafter entered into, as defined in RCW 63.10.020; (b) a lease which would constitute such "consumer lease" but for the fact that: (i) It was entered into before April 29, 1983; (ii) the lessee was not a natural person; (iii) the lease was not primarily for personal, family, or household purposes; or (iv) the total contractual obligations exceeded twenty-five thousand dollars; or (c) a lease-purchase agreement under chapter 63.19 RCW;

(12) "Retail installment transaction" means any transaction in which a retail buyer purchases goods or services from

a retail seller pursuant to a retail installment contract, a retail charge agreement, or a lender credit card agreement, as defined in this section, which provides for a service charge, as defined in this section, and under which the buyer agrees to pay the unpaid principal balance in one or more installments or which provides for no service charge and under which the buyer agrees to pay the unpaid balance in more than four installments;

(13) "Retail seller" or "seller" means a person engaged in the business of selling goods or services to retail buyers;

(14) "Sale price" means the price for which the seller would have sold or furnished to the buyer, and the buyer would have bought or obtained from the seller, the goods or services which are the subject matter of a retail installment transaction. The sale price may include any taxes, registration and vehicle license fees, the cost of a guaranteed asset protection waiver, any vehicle dealer administrative fee, any vehicle dealer documentary service fee, and charges for transferring vehicle titles, delivery, installation, servicing, repairs, alterations, or improvements;

(15) "Service charge" however denominated or expressed, means the amount which is paid or payable for the privilege of purchasing goods or services to be paid for by the buyer in installments over a period of time. It does not include the amount, if any, charged for insurance premiums, delinquency charges, attorneys' fees, court costs, any vehicle dealer administrative fee under RCW 46.68.440(1), any vehicle dealer documentary service fee under RCW 46.70.180(2), or official fees;

(16) "Services" means work, labor, or services of any kind when purchased primarily for personal, family, or household use and not for commercial or business use whether or not furnished in connection with the delivery, installation, servicing, repair, or improvement of goods and includes repairs, alterations, or improvements upon or in connection with real property, but does not include services for which the price charged is required by law to be determined or approved by or to be filed, subject to approval or disapproval, with the United States or any state, or any department, division, agency, officer, or official of either as in the case of transportation services;

(17) "Time balance" means the principal balance plus the service charge. [2010 c 161 § 1152. Prior: 2009 c 334 § 11; 2003 c 368 § 2; 1999 c 113 § 1; 1997 c 331 § 6; 1993 sp.s. c 5 § 1; 1992 c 134 § 16; 1984 c 280 § 1; 1983 c 158 § 7; 1981 c 77 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 47 § 1; 1963 c 236 § 1.]

Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161: See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.14.020 Retail installment contracts—Number of documents—Promissory notes—Date—Signatures—Completion—Type size. Every retail installment contract shall be contained in a single document which shall contain the entire agreement of the parties including any promissory notes or other evidences of indebtedness between the parties relating to the transaction, except as provided in RCW 63.14.050, 63.14.060 and 63.14.110: PROVIDED, That where the buyer's obligation to pay the time balance is represented by a promissory note secured by a chattel mortgage,

the promissory note may be a separate instrument if the mortgage recites the amount and terms of payment of such note and the promissory note recites that it is secured by a mortgage: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any such promissory note or other evidence of indebtedness executed by the buyer shall not, when assigned or negotiated, cut off as to third parties any right of action or defense which the buyer may have against the seller, and each such promissory note or other evidence of indebtedness shall contain a statement to that effect: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That in a transaction involving the repair, alteration or improvement upon or in connection with real property, the contract may be secured by a mortgage on the real property contained in a separate document. Home improvement retail sales transactions which are financed or insured by the Federal Housing Administration are not subject to this chapter.

The contract shall be dated, signed by the retail buyer and completed as to all essential provisions, except as otherwise provided in RCW 63.14.060 and 63.14.070. The printed or typed portion of the contract, other than instructions for completion, shall be in a size equal to at least eight point type. [1967 c 234 § 1; 1963 c 236 § 2.]

63.14.030 Retail installment contracts—Delivery to buyer of copy—Acknowledgment of delivery. The retail seller shall deliver to the retail buyer, at the time the buyer signs the contract, a copy of the contract as signed by the buyer, unless the contract is completed by the buyer in situations covered by RCW 63.14.060, and if the contract is accepted at a later date by the seller, the seller shall mail to the buyer at his or her address shown on the retail installment contract a copy of the contract as accepted by the seller or a copy of the memorandum as required in RCW 63.14.060. Until the seller does so, the buyer shall be obligated to pay only the sale price. Any acknowledgment by the buyer of delivery of a copy of the contract shall be in a size equal to at least ten point bold type and, if contained in the contract, shall appear directly above the buyer's signature. [2012 c 117 § 166; 1981 c 77 § 2; 1967 c 234 § 2; 1963 c 236 § 3.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.14.040 Retail installment contracts—Contents. (1) The retail installment contract shall contain the names of the seller and the buyer, the place of business of the seller, the residence or other address of the buyer as specified by the buyer and a description or identification of the goods sold or to be sold, or service furnished or rendered or to be furnished or rendered. The contract also shall contain the following items, which shall be set forth in the sequence appearing below:

- (a) The sale price of each item of goods or services;
- (b) The amount of the buyer's down payment, if any, identifying the amounts paid in money and allowed for goods traded in;
- (c) The difference between items (a) and (b);
- (d) The aggregate amount, if any, included for insurance, specifying the type or types of insurance and the terms of coverage;
- (e) The aggregate amount of official fees, if any;
- (f) The amount, if any, actually paid or to be paid by the retail seller pursuant to an agreement with the buyer to dis-

charge a security interest or lien on like-kind goods traded in or lease interest in the circumstance of a lease for like goods being terminated in conjunction with the sale pursuant to a retail installment contract;

- (g) The principal balance, which is the sum of items (c), (d), (e), and (f);
- (h) The dollar amount or rate of the service charge;
- (i) The amount of the time balance owed by the buyer to the seller, which is the sum of items (g) and (h), if (h) [of this subsection] is stated in a dollar amount; and
- (j) Except as otherwise provided in the next two sentences, the maximum number of installment payments required and the amount of each installment and the due date of each payment necessary to pay such balance. If installment payments other than the final payment are stated as a series of equal scheduled amounts and if the amount of the final installment payment does not substantially exceed the scheduled amount of each preceding installment payment, the maximum number of payments and the amount and due date of each payment need not be separately stated and the amount of the scheduled final installment payment may be stated as the remaining unpaid balance. The due date of the first installment payment may be fixed by a day or date or may be fixed by reference to the date of the contract or to the time of delivery or installation.

Additional items may be included to explain the calculations involved in determining the balance to be paid by the buyer.

(2) Every retail installment contract shall contain the following notice in ten point bold face type or larger directly above the space reserved in the contract for the signature of the buyer: "NOTICE TO BUYER:

- (a) Do not sign this contract before you read it or if any spaces intended for the agreed terms, except as to unavailable information, are blank.
- (b) You are entitled to a copy of this contract at the time you sign it.
- (c) You may at any time pay off the full unpaid balance due under this contract, and in so doing you may receive a partial rebate of the service charge.
- (d) The service charge does not exceed . . . % (must be filled in) per annum computed monthly.
- (e) You may cancel this contract if it is solicited in person, and you sign it, at a place other than the seller's business address shown on the contract, by sending notice of such cancellation by certified mail return receipt requested to the seller at his or her address shown on the contract which notice shall be posted not later than midnight of the third day (excluding Sundays and holidays) following your signing this contract. If you choose to cancel this contract, you must return or make available to the seller at the place of delivery any merchandise, in its original condition, received by you under this contract."

Subsection (2)(e) of this section needs to be included in the notice only if the contract is solicited in person by the seller or his or her representative, and the buyer signs it, at a place other than the seller's business address shown on the contract. [2012 c 117 § 167; 1999 c 113 § 2; 1981 c 77 § 3; 1972 ex.s. c 47 § 2; 1969 c 2 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 245, approved November 5, 1968); 1967 c 234 § 3; 1963 c 236 § 4.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.14.043 Retail installment contracts—Purchase of motor vehicle—Secondary products. (1) If a retail installment contract for the purchase of a motor vehicle meets the requirements of this chapter and meets the requirements of any federal law applicable to a retail installment contract for the purchase of a motor vehicle, the retail installment contract shall be accepted for consideration by any lender, except for lenders licensed and regulated under the provisions of chapter 31.04 RCW, to whom application for credit relating to the retail installment contract is made.

(2) If a retail installment contract for the purchase of a motor vehicle includes the purchase of a secondary product, a lender who shares common control with a brand owner may not directly or indirectly require, as a condition of acceptance of assignment of the retail installment contract, that the buyer purchase a secondary product from a particular provider, administrator, or insurer. A violation of this subsection is deemed to affect the public interest and constitutes an unlawful and unfair practice under chapter 19.86 RCW.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "secondary product," "common control," and "brand owner" have the same meanings as provided in RCW 46.96.196. [2020 c 174 § 2; 2006 c 288 § 1.]

63.14.050 Retail installment contracts—Multiple documents permissible where original applies to purchases from time to time. A retail installment contract may be contained in more than one document, provided that one such document shall be an original document signed by the retail buyer, stated to be applicable to purchases of goods or services to be made by the retail buyer from time to time. In such case such document, together with the sales slip, account book or other written statement relating to each purchase, shall set forth all of the information required by RCW 63.14.040 and shall constitute the retail installment contract for each purchase. On each succeeding purchase pursuant to such original document, the sales slip, account book or other written statement may at the option of the seller constitute the memorandum required by RCW 63.14.110. [1963 c 236 § 5.]

63.14.060 Retail installment contracts—Mail orders based on catalog or other printed solicitation. Retail installment contracts negotiated and entered into by mail or telephone without solicitation in person by salespersons or other representatives of the seller and based upon a catalog of the seller, or other printed solicitation of business, if such catalog or other printed solicitation clearly sets forth the cash sale prices and other terms of sales to be made through such medium, may be made as provided in this section. The provisions of this chapter with respect to retail installment contracts shall be applicable to such sales, except that the retail installment contract, when completed by the buyer need not contain the items required by RCW 63.14.040.

When the contract is received from the retail buyer, the seller shall prepare a written memorandum containing all of the information required by RCW 63.14.040 to be included in a retail installment contract. In lieu of delivering a copy of the contract to the retail buyer as provided in RCW 63.14.030, the seller shall deliver to the buyer a copy of such memoran-

dum prior to the due date of the first installment payable under the contract: PROVIDED, That if the catalog or other printed solicitation does not set forth all of the other terms of sales in addition to the cash sales prices, such memorandum shall be delivered to the buyer prior to or at the time of delivery of the goods or services. [2012 c 117 § 168; 1967 c 234 § 4; 1963 c 236 § 6.]

63.14.070 Retail installment contracts—Seller not to obtain buyer's signature when essential blank spaces not filled—Exceptions. The seller shall not obtain the signature of the buyer to any contract when it contains blank spaces of items which are essential provisions of the transaction except as provided in RCW 63.14.060: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That if delivery of the goods is not made at the time of the execution of the contract, the identifying numbers or marks of the goods or similar information and the due date of the first installment may be inserted by the seller in the seller's counterpart of the contract after it has been signed by the buyer. [1963 c 236 § 7.]

63.14.080 Retail installment contracts—Prepayment in full of unpaid time balance—Refund of unearned service charge—"Rule of seventy-eighths." For the purpose of this section, "periodic time balance" means the unpaid portion of the time balance as of the last day of each month, or other uniform time interval established by the regular consecutive payment period scheduled in a retail installment contract.

Notwithstanding the provisions of any retail installment contract to the contrary, and if the rights of the purchaser have not been terminated or forfeited under the terms of the contract, any buyer may prepay in full the unpaid portion of the time balance thereof at any time before its final due date and, if he or she does so, he or she shall receive a refund credit of the unearned portion of the service charge for such prepayment. The amount of such refund credit shall be computed according to the "rule of seventy-eighths," that is it shall represent at least as great a portion of the original service charge, as the sum of the periodic time balances not yet due bears to the sum of all the periodic time balances under the schedule of payments in the contract: PROVIDED, That where the earned service charge (total service charge minus refund credit) thus computed is less than the following minimum service charge: Fifteen dollars where the principal balance is not in excess of two hundred and fifty dollars, twenty-five dollars where the principal balance exceeds two hundred and fifty dollars but is not in excess of five hundred dollars, thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents where the principal balance exceeds five hundred dollars but is not in excess of one thousand dollars, and fifty dollars where the principal balance exceeds one thousand dollars; then such minimum service charge shall be deemed to be the earned service charge: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That where the amount of such refund credit is less than one dollar, no refund credit need be made. [2012 c 117 § 169; 1967 c 234 § 5; 1963 c 236 § 8.]

63.14.090 Retail installment contracts, retail charge agreements, and lender credit card agreements—Delinquency or collection charges—Attorney's fees, court costs—Other provisions not inconsistent with chapter

permissible. (1) The holder of any retail installment contract, retail charge agreement, or lender credit card agreement may not collect any delinquency or collection charges, including any attorney's fee and court costs and disbursements, unless the contract, charge agreement, or lender credit card agreement so provides. In such cases, the charges shall be reasonable, and no attorney's fee may be recovered unless the contract, charge agreement, or lender credit card agreement is referred for collection to an attorney not a salaried employee of the holder.

(2) The contract, charge agreement, or lender credit card agreement may contain other provisions not inconsistent with the purposes of this chapter, including but not limited to provisions relating to refinancing, transfer of the buyer's equity, construction permits, and title reports.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, where the minimum payment is received within the ten days following the payment due date, delinquency charges for the late payment of a retail charge agreement or lender credit card agreement may not be more than ten percent of the average balance of the delinquent account for the prior thirty-day period when the average balance of the account for the prior thirty-day period is less than one hundred dollars, except that a minimum charge of up to two dollars shall be allowed. This subsection (3) shall not apply in cases where the payment on the account is more than thirty days overdue. [1993 c 481 § 1; 1984 c 280 § 2; 1963 c 236 § 9.]

63.14.100 Receipt for cash payment—Retail installment contracts, statement of payment schedule and total amount unpaid. A buyer shall be given a written receipt for any payment when made in cash. Upon written request of the buyer, the holder of a retail installment contract shall give or forward to the buyer a written statement of the dates and amounts of payments and the total amount unpaid under the contract. Such a statement shall be given the buyer once without charge; if any additional statement is requested by the buyer, it shall be supplied by the holder at a charge not in excess of one dollar for each additional statement so supplied. [1963 c 236 § 10.]

63.14.110 Consolidation of subsequent purchases with previous contract. (1) If, in a retail installment transaction, a retail buyer makes any subsequent purchases of goods or services from a retail seller from whom he or she has previously purchased goods or services under one or more retail installment contracts, and the amounts under such previous contract or contracts have not been fully paid, the subsequent purchases may, at the seller's option, be included in and consolidated with one or more of the previous contracts. All the provisions of this chapter with respect to retail installment contracts shall be applicable to such subsequent purchases except as hereinafter stated in this subsection. In the event of such consolidation, in lieu of the buyer's executing a retail installment contract respecting each subsequent purchase, as provided in this section, it shall be sufficient if the seller shall prepare a written memorandum of each such subsequent purchase, in which case the provisions of RCW 63.14.020, 63.14.030, and 63.14.040 shall not be applicable. Unless previously furnished in writing to the buyer by the seller, by sales slip, memoranda, or otherwise, such memo-

randum shall set forth with respect to each subsequent purchase items (a) to (h) inclusive of RCW 63.14.040(1), and in addition, if the service charge is stated as a dollar amount, the amount of the time balance owed by the buyer to the seller for the subsequent purchase, the outstanding balance of the previous contract or contracts, the consolidated time balance, and the revised installments applicable to the consolidated time balance, if any, in accordance with RCW 63.14.040. If the service charge is not stated in a dollar amount, in addition to the items (a) to (h) inclusive of RCW 63.14.040(1), the memorandum shall set forth the outstanding balance of the previous contract or contracts, the consolidated outstanding balance, and the revised installments applicable to the consolidated outstanding balance, in accordance with RCW 63.14.040.

The seller shall deliver to the buyer a copy of such memorandum prior to the due date of the first installment of such consolidated contract.

(2) When such subsequent purchases are made, if the seller has retained title or taken a lien or other security interest in any of the goods purchased under any one of the contracts included in the consolidation:

(a) The entire amount of all payments made prior to such subsequent purchases shall be deemed to have been applied on the previous purchases;

(b) The amount of any down payment on the subsequent purchase shall be allocated in its entirety to such subsequent purchase;

(c) Each payment received after the subsequent purchase shall be deemed to be allocated to all of the various time balances in the same proportion or ratio as the original cash sale prices of the various retail installment transactions bear to one another: PROVIDED, That the seller may elect, where the amount of each installment payment is increased in connection with the subsequent purchase, to allocate only the increased amount to the time balance of the subsequent retail installment transaction, and to allocate the amount of each installment payment prior to the increase to the time balance(s) existing at the time of the subsequent purchase.

The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to cases where such previous and subsequent purchases involve equipment, parts, or other goods attached or affixed to goods previously purchased and not fully paid, or to services in connection therewith rendered by the seller at the buyer's request. [2012 c 117 § 170; 1999 c 113 § 3; 1967 c 234 § 6; 1963 c 236 § 11.]

63.14.120 Retail charge agreements and lender credit card agreements—Information to be furnished by seller. (1) At or prior to the time a retail charge agreement or lender credit card agreement is made the seller shall advise the buyer in writing, on the application form or otherwise, or orally that a service charge will be computed on the outstanding balance for each month (which need not be a calendar month) or other regular period agreed upon, the schedule or rate by which the service charge will be computed, and that the buyer may at any time pay his or her total unpaid balance: PROVIDED, That if this information is given orally, the seller shall, upon approval of the buyer's credit, deliver to the buyer or mail to the buyer's address, a memorandum setting forth this information.

(2) The seller or holder of a retail charge agreement or lender credit card agreement shall promptly supply the buyer with a statement as of the end of each monthly period (which need not be a calendar month) or other regular period agreed upon, in which there is any unpaid balance thereunder, which statement shall set forth the following:

(a) The unpaid balance under the retail charge agreement or lender credit card agreement at the beginning and at the end of the period;

(b) Unless otherwise furnished by the seller to the buyer by sales slip, memorandum, or otherwise, a description or identification of the goods or services purchased during the period, the sale price, and the date of each purchase;

(c) The payments made by the buyer to the seller and any other credits to the buyer during the period;

(d) The amount, if any, of any service charge for such period; and

(e) A legend to the effect that the buyer may at any time pay his or her total unpaid balance.

(3) Every retail charge agreement shall contain the following notice in ten point bold face type or larger directly above the space reserved in the charge agreement for the signature of the buyer: NOTICE TO BUYER:

(a) Do not sign this retail charge agreement before you read it or if any spaces intended for the agreed terms are left blank.

(b) You are entitled to a copy of this charge agreement at the time you sign it.

(c) You may at any time pay off the full unpaid balance under this charge agreement.

(d) You may cancel any purchases made under this charge agreement if the seller or his representative solicited in person such purchase, and you sign an agreement for such purchase, at a place other than the seller's business address shown on the charge agreement, by sending notice of such cancellation by certified mail return receipt requested to the seller at his address shown on the charge agreement, which notice shall be posted not later than midnight of the third day (excluding Sundays and holidays) following your signing of the purchase agreement. If you choose to cancel this purchase, you must return or make available to seller at the place of delivery any merchandise, in its original condition, received by you under this purchase agreement. [1984 c 280 § 3; 1981 c 77 § 4; 1972 ex.s. c 47 § 3; 1969 c 2 § 2 (Initiative Measure No. 245, approved November 5, 1968); 1967 c 234 § 7; 1963 c 236 § 12.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.14.123 Restrictions on electronically printed credit and debit card receipts. (1) A retailer shall not print more than the last five digits of the card account number or print the card expiration date on a credit or debit card receipt. This includes all receipts kept by the person or provided to the cardholder.

(2) This section shall apply only to receipts that are electronically printed and shall not apply to transactions in which the:

(a) Sole means of recording the card number is by hand-writing or by an imprint or copy of the credit or debit card; or

(b) Retailer processes the transaction electronically but also takes additional manual measures for the purpose of

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ensuring that the card is not being used fraudulently, including measures the retailer is contractually obligated to take in connection with its acceptance of credit or debit cards.

(3) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Credit card" means a card or device existing for the purpose of obtaining money, property, labor, or services on credit.

(b) "Debit card" means a card or device used to obtain money, property, labor, or services by a transaction that debits a cardholder's account, rather than extending credit. [2009 c 382 § 2; 2000 c 163 § 2.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.14.125 Lender credit card agreements—Security interests prohibited. A lender credit card agreement may not contain any provision for a security interest in real or personal property or fixtures of the buyer to secure payment of performance of the buyer's obligation under the lender credit card agreement. [1984 c 280 § 4.]

63.14.127 Retail installment contracts—Dog or cat as security interest. A retail installment contract entered into on or after July 28, 2019, that includes a live dog or cat as a security interest for the contract is void and unenforceable. [2019 c 340 § 2.]

Construction—Additional remedies—Dog or cat ownership contracts—2019 c 340: See notes following RCW 63.10.070.

63.14.130 Retail installment contracts, retail charge agreements, and lender credit card agreements—Service charge agreed to by contract—Other fees and charges prohibited. The service charge shall be inclusive of all charges incident to investigating and making the retail installment contract or charge agreement and for the privilege of making the installment payments thereunder and no other fee, expense or charge whatsoever shall be taken, received, reserved, or contracted therefor from the buyer, except for any vehicle dealer administrative fee under RCW 46.68.440(1) or for any vehicle dealer documentary service fee under RCW 46.70.180(2).

(1) The service charge, in a retail installment contract, shall not exceed the dollar amount or rate agreed to by contract and disclosed under RCW 63.14.040(1)(h).

(2) The service charge in a retail charge agreement, revolving charge agreement, lender credit card agreement, or charge agreement, shall not exceed the schedule or rate agreed to by contract and disclosed under RCW 63.14.120(1). If the service charge so computed is less than one dollar for any month, then one dollar may be charged. [2010 c 161 § 1153; 2003 c 368 § 3; 1999 c 113 § 4; 1997 c 331 § 7; 1992 c 193 § 1. Prior: 1989 c 112 § 1; 1989 c 14 § 5; 1987 c 318 § 1; 1984 c 280 § 5; 1981 c 77 § 5; 1969 c 2 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 245, approved November 5, 1968); 1967 c 234 § 8; 1963 c 236 § 13.]

Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161: See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.14.136 Retail installment transaction—Unconscionable—Judicial action. (1) With respect to a retail

installment transaction, as defined in *RCW 63.14.010(8), if the court as a matter of law finds the agreement or contract, or any clause in the agreement or contract, to have been unconscionable at the time it was made, the court may refuse to enforce the agreement or contract, may enforce the remainder of the agreement or contract, or may limit the application of any unconscionable clause to avoid an unconscionable result.

(2) If it is claimed or it appears to the court that the agreement or contract, or any clause in the agreement or contract, may be unconscionable, the parties shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present evidence as to its setting, purpose, and effect to assist the court in making a determination regarding unconscionability.

(3) For the purpose of this section, a charge or practice expressly permitted by this chapter is not in itself unconscionable. [1995 c 249 § 4.]

*Reviser's note: RCW 63.14.010 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (8) to subsection (12).

63.14.140 Retail installment contracts, retail charge agreements, and lender credit card agreements—Insurance. If the cost of any insurance is included in the retail installment contract, retail charge agreement, or lender credit card agreement:

(1) The contract or agreement shall state the nature, purpose, term, and amount of such insurance, and in connection with the sale of a motor vehicle, the contract shall state that the insurance coverage ordered under the terms of this contract does not include "bodily injury liability," "public liability," and "property damage liability" coverage, where such coverage is in fact not included;

(2) The contract or agreement shall state whether the insurance is to be procured by the buyer or the seller;

(3) The amount, included for such insurance, shall not exceed the premiums chargeable in accordance with the rate fixed for such insurance by the insurer, except where the amount is less than one dollar;

(4) If the insurance is to be procured by the seller or holder, he or she shall, within forty-five days after delivery of the goods or furnishing of the services under the contract, deliver, mail, or cause to be mailed to the buyer, at his or her address as specified in the contract, a notice thereof or a copy of the policy or policies of insurance or a certificate or certificates of the insurance so procured. [2012 c 117 § 171; 1984 c 280 § 6; 1963 c 236 § 14.]

63.14.145 Retail installment contracts and charge agreements—Sale, transfer, or assignment. (1) A retail seller may sell, transfer, or assign a retail installment contract or charge agreement. After such sale, transfer, or assignment, the retail installment contract or charge agreement remains a retail installment contract or charge agreement.

(2) Nothing contained in this chapter shall be deemed to limit any charge made by an assignee of a retail installment contract or charge agreement to the seller-assignor upon the sale, transfer, assignment, or discount of the contract or agreement, notwithstanding retention by the assignee of recourse rights against the seller-assignor and notwithstanding duties retained by the seller-assignor to service delinquencies, perform service or warranty agreements regarding

the property which is the subject matter of the assigned or discounted contracts or charge agreements, or to do or perform any other duty with respect to the contract or agreement assigned or the subject matter of such contract or agreement. [1993 sp.s. c 5 § 2.]

63.14.150 Retail installment contracts, retail charge agreements, and lender credit card agreements—Agreements by buyer not to assert claim or defense or to submit to suit in another county invalid. No provision of a retail installment contract, retail charge agreement, or lender credit card agreement is valid by which the buyer agrees not to assert against the seller or against an assignee a claim or defense arising out of the sale, or by which the buyer agrees to submit to suit in a county other than the county where the buyer signed the contract or where the buyer resides or has his or her principal place of business. [2012 c 117 § 172; 1984 c 280 § 7; 1967 c 234 § 9; 1963 c 236 § 15.]

63.14.151 Retail installment contracts, retail charge agreements, and lender credit card agreements—Compliance with disclosure requirements of federal consumer protection act deemed compliance with chapter 63.14 RCW. Any retail installment contract, retail charge agreement, or lender credit card agreement that complies with the disclosure requirements of Title I of the federal consumer protection act (82 Stat. 146, 15 U.S.C. 1601) which is also known as the truth in lending act, as of the date upon which said retail installment contract, revolving charge agreement, or lender credit card agreement is executed, shall be deemed to comply with the disclosure provisions of chapter 63.14 RCW. [1984 c 280 § 8; 1981 c 77 § 9.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.14.152 Declaratory judgment action to establish if service charge is excessive. The seller, holder, or buyer may bring an action for declaratory judgment to establish whether service charges contracted for or received in connection with a retail installment transaction are in excess of those allowed by chapter 234, Laws of 1967. Such an action shall be brought against the current holder or against the buyer or his or her successor in interest or, if the entire principal balance has been fully paid, by the buyer or his or her successor in interest against the holder to whom the final payment was made. No such action shall be commenced after six months following the date the final payment becomes due, whether by acceleration or otherwise, nor after six months following the date the principal balance is fully paid, whichever first occurs. If the buyer commences such an action and fails to establish that the service charge is in excess of that allowed by RCW 63.14.130, and if the court finds the action was frivolously commenced, the defendant or defendants may, in the court's discretion, recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs from the buyer. [2012 c 117 § 173; 1967 c 234 § 11.]

63.14.154 Cancellation of transaction by buyer—Procedure. (1) In addition to any other rights he or she may have, the buyer shall have the right to cancel a retail installment transaction for other than the seller's breach by sending notice of such cancellation to the seller at his or her place of business as set forth in the contract or charge agreement by

certified mail, return receipt requested, which shall be posted not later than midnight of the third day (excluding Sundays and holidays) following the date the buyer signs the contract or charge agreement:

(a) If the retail installment transaction was entered into by the buyer and solicited in person or by a commercial telephone solicitation as defined by chapter 20, Laws of 1989 by the seller or his or her representative at a place other than the seller's address, which may be his or her main or branch office, shown on the contract; and

(b) If the buyer returns goods received or makes them available to the seller as provided in subsection (2)(b) of this section.

(2) In the event of cancellation pursuant to this section:

(a) The seller shall, without request, refund to the buyer within ten days after such cancellation all deposits, including any down payment, made under the contract or charge agreement and shall return all goods traded in to the seller on account or in contemplation of the contract less any reasonable costs actually incurred in making ready for sale the goods so traded in;

(b) The seller shall be entitled to reclaim and the buyer shall return or make available to the seller at the place of delivery in its original condition any goods received by the buyer under the contract or charge agreement;

(c) The buyer shall incur no additional liability for such cancellation. [2012 c 117 § 174. Prior: 1989 c 20 § 18; 1989 c 14 § 8; 1972 ex.s. c 47 § 4; 1967 c 234 § 12.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.14.156 Extension or deferment of payments—Agreement, charges. The holder of a retail installment contract may, upon agreement with the buyer, extend the scheduled due date or defer a scheduled payment of all or of any part of any installment or installments payable thereunder. No charge shall be made for any such extension or deferment unless a written acknowledgment of such extension or deferment is sent or delivered to the buyer. The holder may charge and contract for the payment of an extension or deferral charge by the buyer and collect and receive the same, but such charge may not exceed those permitted by *RCW 63.14.130 (a), (b), or (c) on the amount of the installment or installments, or part thereof, extended or deferred for the period of extension or deferral. Such period shall not exceed the period from the date when such extended or deferred installment or installments, or part thereof, would have been payable in the absence of such extension or deferral, to the date when such installment or installments, or part thereof, are made payable under the agreement of extension or deferral; except that a minimum charge of one dollar for the period of extension or deferral may be made in any case where the extension or deferral charge, when computed at such rate, amounts to less than one dollar. Such agreement may also provide for the payment by the buyer of the additional cost to the holder of the contract of premiums for continuing in force, until the end of such period of extension or deferral, any insurance coverages provided for in the contract, subject to the provisions of RCW 63.14.140. [1967 c 234 § 13.]

*Reviser's note: The reference to RCW 63.14.130 (a), (b), or (c) is erroneous. RCW 63.14.130(1) (a) or (b) is apparently intended. Subsequently,

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RCW 63.14.130 was amended by 1992 c 193 § 2, changing the subsection numbering.

63.14.158 Refinancing agreements—Costs—Contents. The holder of a retail installment contract or contracts may, upon agreement in writing with the buyer, refinance the payment of the unpaid time balance or balances of the contract or contracts by providing for a new schedule of installment payments.

The holder may charge and contract for the payment of a refinance charge by the buyer and collect and receive the same but such refinance charge (1) shall be based upon the amount refinanced, plus any additional cost of insurance and of official fees incident to such refinancing, after the deduction of a refund credit in an amount equal to that to which the buyer would have been entitled under RCW 63.14.080 if he or she had prepaid in full his or her obligations under the contract or contracts, but in computing such refund credit there shall not be allowed the minimum earned service charge as authorized by subsection (1)(d) of such section, and (2) may not exceed the rate of service charge provided under RCW 63.14.130. Such agreement for refinancing may also provide for the payment by the buyer of the additional cost to the holder of the contract or contracts of premiums for continuing in force, until the maturity of the contract or contracts as refinanced, any insurance coverages provided for therein, subject to the provisions of RCW 63.14.140.

The refinancing agreement shall set forth the amount of the unpaid time balance or balances to be refinanced, the amount of any refund credit, the amount to be refinanced after the deduction of the refund credit, the amount or rate of the service charge under the refinancing agreement, any additional cost of insurance and of official fees to the buyer, the new unpaid time balance, if the service charge is stated as a dollar amount, and the new schedule of installment payments. Where there is a consolidation of two or more contracts, then the provisions of RCW 63.14.110 shall apply. [2012 c 117 § 175; 1967 c 234 § 14.]

Minimum earned service charges: RCW 63.14.080.

63.14.159 New payment schedule—When authorized. In the event a contract provides for the payment of any installment which is more than double the amount of the average of the preceding installments the buyer upon default of this installment, shall be given an absolute right to obtain a new payment schedule. Unless agreed to by the buyer, the periodic payments under the new schedule shall not be substantially greater than the average of the preceding installments. This section shall not apply if the payment schedule is adjusted to the seasonal or irregular income of the buyer or to accommodate the nature of the buyer's employment. [1967 c 234 § 15.]

63.14.160 Conduct or agreement of buyer does not waive remedies. No act or agreement of the retail buyer before or at the time of the making of a retail installment contract, retail charge agreement, lender credit card agreement, or purchases thereunder shall constitute a valid waiver of any of the provisions of this chapter or of any remedies granted to the buyer by law. [1984 c 280 § 9; 1963 c 236 § 16.]

63.14.165 Financial institution credit card agreement not subject to chapter 63.14 RCW, but subject to chapter 19.52 RCW. A financial institution credit card is a card or device issued under an arrangement pursuant to which the issuing financial institution gives to a cardholder residing in this state the privilege of obtaining credit from the issuer or other persons in purchasing or leasing property or services, obtaining loans, or otherwise, and the issuer of which is not principally engaged in the business of selling goods.

Except as provided in RCW 63.14.167, a financial institution credit card agreement and credit extended pursuant to it is not subject to the provisions of this chapter but shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 19.52 RCW. [1984 c 280 § 10; 1981 c 77 § 10.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.14.167 Lender credit card agreements and financial institution credit card agreements—Credit to account for returned goods or forgiveness of a debit for services—Statement of credit to card issuer—Notice to cardholder. (1) Pursuant to a lender credit card or financial institution credit card transaction in which a credit card has been used to obtain credit, the seller is a person other than the card issuer, and the seller accepts or allows a return of goods or forgiveness of a debit for services that were the subject of the sale, credit shall be applied to the obligor's account as provided by this section.

(2) Within seven working days after a transaction in which an obligor becomes entitled to credit, the seller shall transmit a statement to the card issuer through the normal channels established by the card issuer for the transmittal of such statements. The credit card issuer shall credit the obligor's account within three working days following receipt of a credit statement from the seller.

(3) The obligor is not responsible for payment of any service charges resulting from the seller's or card issuer's failure to comply with subsection (2) of this section.

(4) An issuer issuing a lender credit card or financial institution credit card shall mail or deliver a notice of the provisions of this section at least once per calendar year, at intervals of not less than six months nor more than eighteen months, either to all cardholders or to each cardholder entitled to receive a periodic statement for any one billing cycle. The notice shall state that the obligor is not responsible for payment of any service charges resulting from the seller's or card issuer's failure to comply with subsection (2) of this section. [1989 c 11 § 24; 1984 c 280 § 11.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.14.170 Violations—Penalties. Any person who shall wilfully and intentionally violate any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. Violation of any order or injunction issued pursuant to this chapter shall constitute prima facie proof of a violation of this section. [1963 c 236 § 17.]

63.14.175 Violations—Remedies. No person may pursue any remedy alleging a violation of this chapter on the basis of any act or omission that does not constitute a viola-

tion of this chapter as amended by chapter 5, Laws of 1993 sp. sess. For purposes of this section, the phrase "pursue any remedy" includes pleading a defense, asserting a counterclaim or right of offset or recoupment, commencing, maintaining, or continuing any legal action, or pursuing or defending any appeal. [1993 sp.s. c 5 § 3.]

63.14.180 Noncomplying person barred from recovery of service charge, etc.—Remedy of buyer—Extent of recovery. Any person who enters into a retail installment contract, charge agreement, or lender credit card agreement that does not comply with the provisions of this chapter or who violates any provision of this chapter except as a result of an accidental or bona fide error shall be barred from the recovery of any service charge, official fees, or any delinquency or collection charge under or in connection with the related retail installment contract or purchases under a retail charge agreement or lender credit card agreement; but such person may nevertheless recover from the buyer an amount equal to the cash price of the goods or services and the cost to such person of any insurance included in the transaction: PROVIDED, That if the service charge is in excess of that allowed by RCW 63.14.130, except as the result of an accidental or bona fide error, the buyer shall be entitled to an amount equal to the total of (1) twice the amount of the service charge paid, and (2) the amount of the service charge contracted for and not paid, plus (3) costs and reasonable attorneys' fees. The reduction in the cash price by the application of the above sentence shall be applied to diminish pro rata each future installment of principal amount payable under the terms of the contract or agreement. [1984 c 280 § 12; 1967 c 234 § 10; 1963 c 236 § 18.]

63.14.190 Restraint of violations. The attorney general or the prosecuting attorney may bring an action in the name of the state against any person to restrain and prevent any violation of this chapter. [1963 c 236 § 19.]

63.14.200 Assurance of discontinuance of unlawful practices. In the enforcement of this chapter, the attorney general may accept an assurance of discontinuance of any act or practice deemed in violation of this chapter, from any person engaging in, or who has engaged in, such act or practice. Any such assurance shall be in writing and be filed with and subject to the approval of the superior court of the county in which the alleged violator resides or has his or her principal place of business, or in Thurston county. Failure to perform the terms of any such assurance shall constitute prima facie proof of a violation of this chapter for the purpose of securing any injunction as provided in RCW 63.14.190 and for the purpose of RCW 63.14.180 hereof: PROVIDED, That after commencement of any action by a prosecuting attorney, as provided herein, the attorney general may not accept an assurance of discontinuance without the consent of the prosecuting attorney. [2012 c 117 § 176; 1963 c 236 § 20.]

63.14.210 Violation of order or injunction—Penalty. Any person who violates any order or injunction issued pursuant to this chapter shall forfeit and pay a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars. For the purpose of this section the superior court issuing any injunction shall retain

jurisdiction, and the cause shall be continued, and in such cases the attorney general acting in the name of the state may petition for the recovery of civil penalties. [1963 c 236 § 21.]

63.14.903 Application, saving—1981 c 77. This act applies only to loans, forbearances, or transactions which are entered into after May 8, 1981, or to existing loans, forbearances, contracts, or agreements which were not primarily for personal, family, or household use in which there is an addition to the principal amount of the credit outstanding after May 8, 1981. [1981 c 77 § 13.]

63.14.910 Saving—1963 c 236. The provisions of this chapter shall not invalidate or make unlawful retail installment contracts or retail charge agreements executed prior to the effective date hereof. [1963 c 236 § 24.]

63.14.920 Effective date—1963 c 236. This chapter shall take effect October 1, 1963. [1963 c 236 § 25.]

63.14.921 Effective date—Saving—1967 c 234. This 1967 amendatory act shall take effect on January 1, 1968. Nothing in this 1967 amendatory act shall be construed to affect the validity of any agreement or contractual relationship entered into prior to such date, except that the rate of any service charge computed periodically on the outstanding balance in excess of that allowed by this 1967 amendatory act shall be reduced to a permissible rate on or before January 1, 1968. [1967 c 234 § 17.]

63.14.922 Effective date—1993 sp.s. c 5. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 28, 1993]. [1993 sp.s. c 5 § 4.]

63.14.924 Application—1995 c 249. This act applies prospectively only and not retroactively. It applies only to retail installment transactions entered into on or after May 5, 1995. [1995 c 249 § 2.]

63.14.925 Savings—1995 c 249. The repeals in section 1, chapter 249, Laws of 1995 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired or liability or obligation incurred under the statutes repealed or under any rule or order adopted pursuant to those statutes; nor as affecting any proceeding instituted under them. [1995 c 249 § 3.]

63.14.926 Effective date—1995 c 249. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 5, 1995]. [1995 c 249 § 5.]

(2020 Ed.)

**Chapter 63.18 RCW
LEASE OR RENTAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY—
DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY OF
MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS**

Sections

63.18.010 Lease or rental agreement for lease of personal property—Disclaimer of warranty of merchantability or fitness—Limitation—Exceptions.

63.18.010 Lease or rental agreement for lease of personal property—Disclaimer of warranty of merchantability or fitness—Limitation—Exceptions. In any lease or rental agreement for the lease of movable personal property for use primarily in this state (other than a lease under which the lessee is authorized to use such property at no charge), if the rental or other consideration paid or payable thereunder is at a rate which if computed on an annual basis would be six thousand dollars per year or less, no provision thereof purporting to disclaim any warranty of merchantability or fitness for particular purposes which may be implied by law shall be enforceable unless either (1) the disclaimer sets forth with particularity the qualities and characteristics which are not being warranted, or (2) the lessee is engaged in a public utility business or a public service business subject to regulation by the United States or this state. [1974 ex.s. c 180 § 3.]

Exclusion or modification of warranties: RCW 62A.2-316.

**Chapter 63.19 RCW
LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENTS**

Sections

63.19.010 Definitions.
63.19.020 Chapter application.
63.19.030 Disclosure by lessor—Requirement.
63.19.040 Disclosure by lessor—Contents.
63.19.050 Agreement—Restrictions.
63.19.060 Consumer—Reinstatement of agreement—Terms.
63.19.070 Written receipt—Lessor's duty.
63.19.080 Renegotiation—Same lessor and consumer.
63.19.090 Advertising—Requirements—Liability.
63.19.100 Upholstered furniture or bedding.
63.19.110 Violation—Application of chapter 19.86 RCW.
63.19.900 Short title—1992 c 134.

63.19.010 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Advertisement" means a commercial message in any medium that aids, promotes, or assists, directly or indirectly, a lease-purchase agreement.

(2) "Cash price" means the price at which the lessor would have sold the property to the consumer for cash on the date of the lease-purchase agreement.

(3) "Consumer" means a natural person who rents personal property under a lease-purchase agreement to be used primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.

(4) "Consummation" means the time a consumer becomes contractually obligated on a lease-purchase agreement.

(5) "Lease-purchase agreement" means an agreement for the use of personal property by a natural person primarily for personal, family, or household purposes, for an initial period of four months or less that is automatically renewable with each payment after the initial period, but does not obligate or require the consumer to continue leasing or using the prop-

erty beyond the initial period, and that permits the consumer to become the owner of the property.

(6) "Lessor" means a person who regularly provides the use of property through lease-purchase agreements and to whom lease payments are initially payable on the face of the lease-purchase agreement. [1992 c 134 § 2.]

63.19.020 Chapter application. (1) Lease-purchase agreements that comply with this chapter are not governed by the laws relating to:

- (a) A consumer lease as defined in chapter 63.10 RCW;
- (b) A retail installment sale of goods or services as regulated under chapter 63.14 RCW;
- (c) A security interest as defined in Title 62A RCW; or
- (d) Loans, forbearances of money, goods, or things in action as governed by chapter 19.52 RCW.

(2) This chapter does not apply to the following:

- (a) Lease-purchase agreements primarily for business, commercial, or agricultural purposes, or those made with governmental agencies or instrumentalities or with organizations;
- (b) A lease of a safe deposit box;
- (c) A lease or bailment of personal property that is incidental to the lease of real property, and that provides that the consumer has no option to purchase the leased property; or
- (d) A lease of an automobile. [1992 c 134 § 3.]

63.19.030 Disclosure by lessor—Requirement. (1) The lessor shall disclose to the consumer the information required under this chapter. In a transaction involving more than one lessor, only one lessor need make the disclosures, but all lessors shall be bound by such disclosures.

(2) The disclosure shall be made at or before consummation of the lease-purchase agreement.

(3) The disclosure shall be made clearly and conspicuously in writing and a copy of the lease-purchase agreement provided to the consumer. The disclosures required under RCW 63.19.040(1) shall be made on the face of the contract above the line for the consumer's signature.

(4) If a disclosure becomes inaccurate as the result of any act, occurrence, or agreement by the consumer after delivery of the required disclosures, the resulting inaccuracy is not a violation of this chapter. [1992 c 134 § 4.]

63.19.040 Disclosure by lessor—Contents. (1) For each lease-purchase agreement, the lessor shall disclose in the agreement the following items, as applicable:

- (a) The total number, total amount, and timing of all payments necessary to acquire ownership of the property;
- (b) A statement that the consumer will not own the property until the consumer has made the total payment necessary to acquire ownership;
- (c) A statement that the consumer is responsible for the fair market value of the property if, and as of the time, it is lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed;
- (d) A brief description of the leased property, sufficient to identify the property to the consumer and the lessor, including an identification number, if applicable, and a statement indicating whether the property is new or used, but a statement that indicates new property is used is not a violation of this chapter;

(e) A brief description of any damage to the leased property;

(f) A statement of the cash price of the property. Where the agreement involves a lease of five or more items as a set, in one agreement, a statement of the aggregate cash price of all items shall satisfy this requirement;

(g) The total of initial payments paid or required at or before consummation of the agreement or delivery of the property, whichever is later;

(h) A statement that the total of payments does not include other charges, such as late payment, default, pickup, and reinstatement fees, which fees shall be separately disclosed in the contract;

(i) A statement clearly summarizing the terms of the consumer's option to purchase, including a statement that the consumer has the right to exercise an early purchase option and the price, formula, or method for determining the price at which the property may be so purchased;

(j) A statement identifying the party responsible for maintaining or servicing the property while it is being leased, together with a description of that responsibility, and a statement that if any part of a manufacturer's express warranty covers the lease property at the time the consumer acquires ownership of the property, it shall be transferred to the consumer, if allowed by the terms of the warranty;

(k) The date of the transaction and the identities of the lessor and consumer;

(l) A statement that the consumer may terminate the agreement without penalty by voluntarily surrendering or returning the property in good repair upon expiration of any lease term along with any past due rental payments; and

(m) Notice of the right to reinstate an agreement as herein provided.

(2) With respect to matters specifically governed by the federal consumer credit protection act, compliance with the act satisfies the requirements of this section. [1992 c 134 § 5.]

63.19.050 Agreement—Restrictions. A lease-purchase agreement may not contain:

- (1) A confession of judgment;
- (2) A negotiable instrument;
- (3) A security interest or any other claim of a property interest in any goods except those goods delivered by the lessor pursuant to the lease-purchase agreement;
- (4) A wage assignment;
- (5) A waiver by the consumer of claims or defenses; or
- (6) A provision authorizing the lessor or a person acting on the lessor's behalf to enter upon the consumer's premises or to commit any breach of the peace in the repossession of goods. [1992 c 134 § 6.]

63.19.060 Consumer—Reinstatement of agreement—Terms. (1) A consumer who fails to make a timely rental payment may reinstate the agreement, without losing any rights or options that exist under the agreement, by the payment of:

- (a) All past due rental charges;
- (b) If the property has been picked up, the reasonable costs of pickup and redelivery; and

(c) Any applicable late fee, within ten days of the renewal date if the consumer pays monthly, or within five days of the renewal date if the consumer pays more frequently than monthly.

(2) In the case of a consumer who has paid less than two-thirds of the total of payments necessary to acquire ownership and where the consumer has returned or voluntarily surrendered the property, other than through judicial process, during the applicable reinstatement period set forth in subsection (1) of this section, the consumer may reinstate the agreement during a period of not less than twenty-one days after the date of the return of the property.

(3) In the case of a consumer who has paid two-thirds or more of the total of payments necessary to acquire ownership, and where the consumer has returned or voluntarily surrendered the property, other than through judicial process, during the applicable period set forth in subsection (1) of this section, the consumer may reinstate the agreement during a period of not less than forty-five days after the date of the return of the property.

(4) Nothing in this section shall prevent a lessor from attempting to repossess property during the reinstatement period, but such a repossession shall not affect the consumer's right to reinstate. Upon reinstatement, the lessor shall provide the consumer with the same property or substitute property of comparable quality and condition. [1992 c 134 § 7.]

63.19.070 Written receipt—Lessor's duty. A lessor shall provide the consumer a written receipt for each payment made by cash or money order. [1992 c 134 § 8.]

63.19.080 Renegotiation—Same lessor and consumer. (1) A renegotiation shall occur when an existing lease-purchase agreement is satisfied and replaced by a new agreement undertaken by the same lessor and consumer. A renegotiation shall be considered a new agreement requiring new disclosures. However, events such as the following shall not be treated as renegotiations:

(a) The addition or return of property in a multiple-item agreement or the substitution of the lease property, if in either case the average payment allocable to a payment period is not changed by more than twenty-five percent;

(b) A deferral or extension of one or more periodic payments, or portions of a periodic payment;

(c) A reduction in charges in the lease or agreement; and

(d) A lease or agreement involved in a court proceeding.

(2) No disclosures are required for any extension of a lease-purchase agreement. [1992 c 134 § 9.]

63.19.090 Advertising—Requirements—Liability. (1) If an advertisement for a lease-purchase agreement refers to or states the dollar amount of any payment and the right to acquire ownership for any one specific item, the advertisement shall also clearly and conspicuously state the following items, as applicable:

(a) That the transaction advertised is a lease-purchase agreement;

(b) The total of payments necessary to acquire ownership; and

(c) That the consumer acquires no ownership rights if the total amount necessary to acquire ownership is not paid.

(2020 Ed.)

(2) Any owner or personnel of any medium in which an advertisement appears or through which it is disseminated shall not be liable under this section.

(3) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to an advertisement that does not refer to or state the amount of any payment, or which is published in the yellow pages of a telephone directory or in any similar directory of business. [1992 c 134 § 10.]

63.19.100 Upholstered furniture or bedding. Upon the return of leased upholstered furniture or bedding, the lessor shall sanitize the property. A lessor shall not lease used upholstered furniture or bedding that has not been sanitized. [1992 c 134 § 11.]

63.19.110 Violation—Application of chapter 19.86 RCW. The Washington lease-purchase agreement act is a matter affecting the public interest for the purpose of applying chapter 19.86 RCW. The violation of this chapter is not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business. A violation of this chapter constitutes an unfair or deceptive act or practice in trade or commerce for the purpose of applying chapter 19.86 RCW. [1992 c 134 § 12.]

63.19.900 Short title—1992 c 134. This act may be known and cited as the Washington lease-purchase agreement act. [1992 c 134 § 1.]

**Chapter 63.21 RCW
LOST AND FOUND PROPERTY**

Sections

63.21.010	Procedure where finder wishes to claim found property—Appraisal—Surrender of property—Notice of intent to claim—Publication.
63.21.020	Circumstances extinguishing finder's claim to property.
63.21.030	Release of property to finder—Limitations—Payment to governmental entity—Expiration of finder's claim.
63.21.040	Failure to comply with chapter—Forfeiture of right to property.
63.21.050	Duties of chief law enforcement officer receiving found property.
63.21.060	Duties of governmental entity acquiring lost property—Disposal of property.
63.21.070	Claim to found property by employee, officer, or agent of governmental entity—Limitation.
63.21.080	Chapter not applicable to certain unclaimed property.
63.21.090	Designation of alternate entity to accept, store, retain, and dispose of found property.

63.21.010 Procedure where finder wishes to claim found property—Appraisal—Surrender of property—Notice of intent to claim—Publication. (1) Any person who finds property that is not unlawful to possess, the owner of which is unknown, and who wishes to claim the found property, shall:

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

(b) Within seven days report the find of property and surrender, if requested, the property and a copy of the evidence of the value of the property to the chief law enforcement officer, his or her designated representative, or other designated

entity under RCW 63.21.090, of the governmental entity where the property was found, and serve written notice upon the officer or designee of the finder's intent to claim the property if the owner does not make out his or her right to it under this chapter.

(2) Within thirty days of the report the governmental entity shall cause notice of the finding to be published at least once a week for two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the property was found, unless the appraised value of the property is less than the cost of publishing notice. If the value is less than the cost of publishing notice, the governmental entity may cause notice to be posted or published in other media or formats that do not incur expense to the governmental entity. [2020 c 26 § 10; 1997 c 237 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 85 § 1.]

Intent—2020 c 26: See note following RCW 63.21.090.

63.21.020 Circumstances extinguishing finder's claim to property. The finder's claim to the property shall be extinguished:

(1) If the owner satisfactorily establishes, within sixty days after the find was reported to the appropriate officer or, if so designated under RCW 63.21.090, the appropriate entity, the owner's right to possession of the property; or

(2) If the chief law enforcement officer or designee determines and so informs the finder that the property is illegal for the finder to possess. [2020 c 26 § 11; 1979 ex.s. c 85 § 2.]

Intent—2020 c 26: See note following RCW 63.21.090.

63.21.030 Release of property to finder—Limitations—Payment to governmental entity—Expiration of finder's claim. (1) The found property shall be released to the finder and become the property of the finder sixty days after the find was reported to the appropriate officer or designee if no owner has been found, or sixty days after the final disposition of any judicial or other official proceeding involving the property, whichever is later. The property shall be released only after the finder has presented evidence of payment to the treasurer of the governmental entity handling the found property, the amount of ten dollars plus the amount of the cost of publication of notice incurred by the governmental entity pursuant to RCW 63.21.010, which amount shall be deposited in the general fund of the governmental entity. If the appraised value of the property is less than the cost of publication of notice of the finding, then the finder is not required to pay any fee.

(2) When ninety days have passed after the found property was reported to the appropriate officer or designee, or ninety days after the final disposition of a judicial or other proceeding involving the found property, and the finder has not completed the requirements of this chapter, the finder's claim shall be deemed to have expired and the found property may be disposed of as unclaimed property under chapter 63.32 or 63.40 RCW. Such laws shall also apply whenever a finder states in writing that he or she has no intention of claiming the found property. [2020 c 26 § 12; 1997 c 237 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 85 § 3.]

Intent—2020 c 26: See note following RCW 63.21.090.

63.21.040 Failure to comply with chapter—Forfeiture of right to property. Any finder of property who fails to discharge the duties imposed by this chapter shall forfeit all right to the property and shall be liable for the full value of the property to its owner. [1979 ex.s. c 85 § 4.]

63.21.050 Duties of chief law enforcement officer receiving found property. (1) The chief law enforcement officer, his or her designated representative, or other designated entity under RCW 63.21.090 to whom a finder surrenders property, must:

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

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

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

(d) If the property is valued at one hundred dollars or less adjusted for inflation under subsection (2) of this section, allow the finder to retain the property if it is determined there is no reason for the officer or designee to retain the property;

(e) If the property exceeds one hundred dollars adjusted for inflation under subsection (2) of this section in value and has been requested to be surrendered to the governmental entity, retain the property for sixty days before it can be claimed by the finder under this chapter, unless the owner has recovered the property;

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

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

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

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

(b) For the purposes of determining the thresholds in subsection (1)(d) and (e) of this section, the chief law enforcement officer, his or her designated representative, or other designated entity under RCW 63.21.090 must use the latest thresholds published by the office of financial management in the Washington State Register under (a) of this subsection. [2020 c 26 § 13; 2019 c 30 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 85 § 5.]

Intent—2020 c 26: See note following RCW 63.21.090.

63.21.060 Duties of governmental entity acquiring lost property—Disposal of property. Any governmental

entity that acquires lost property shall attempt to notify the apparent owner of the property. If the property is not returned to a person validly establishing ownership or right to possession of the property, the governmental entity shall forward the lost property within thirty days but not less than ten days after the time the governmental entity acquires the lost property to the chief law enforcement officer, his or her designated representative, or other designated entity under *RCW 63.32.060, of the county in which the property was found, except that if the property is found within the borders of a city or town the property shall be forwarded to the chief law enforcement officer of the city or town, his or her designated representative, or other entity of the city or town so designated under RCW 63.21.090. A governmental entity may elect to retain property which it acquires and dispose of the property as provided by chapter 63.32 or 63.40 RCW. [2020 c 26 § 14; 1979 ex.s. c 85 § 6.]

***Reviser's note:** The reference to RCW 63.32.060 appears to be erroneous. RCW 63.21.090 was apparently intended.

Intent—2020 c 26: See note following RCW 63.21.090.

63.21.070 Claim to found property by employee, officer, or agent of governmental entity—Limitation. An employee, officer, or agent of a governmental entity who finds or acquires any property covered by this chapter while acting within the course of his or her employment may not claim possession of the lost property as a finder under this chapter unless the governing body of the governmental entity has specifically provided, by ordinance, resolution, or rule for such a claim. [1979 ex.s. c 85 § 7.]

63.21.080 Chapter not applicable to certain unclaimed property. This chapter shall not apply to:

- (1) Motor vehicles under chapter 46.52 RCW;
- (2) Unclaimed property in the hands of a bailee under chapter 63.24 RCW;
- (3) Uniform disposition of unclaimed property under chapter 63.29 RCW;
- (4) Secured vessels under chapter 79A.65 RCW; and
- (5) Crab or other shellfish pots in coastal marine or Puget Sound waters under RCW 77.70.500. [2010 c 193 § 6; 2009 c 355 § 2; 1994 c 51 § 6; 1985 c 7 § 125; 1979 ex.s. c 85 § 8.]

63.21.090 Designation of alternate entity to accept, store, retain, and dispose of found property. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a county, city, or town may designate an alternate department or governmental entity to accept, store, retain, and dispose of found property as required under this chapter, rather than the chief law enforcement officer or his or her designee, so long as the alternate department or governmental entity complies with the requirements and procedures under this chapter.

(2) Regardless of whether a county, city, or town designates an alternate department or governmental entity under subsection (1) of this section, the chief law enforcement officer or his or her designated representative is responsible for retaining any of the following types of property in accordance with the requirements of this chapter: A bank card; charge or credit card; cash; government-issued document, financial document, or legal document; firearm; evidence in a judicial or other official proceeding; or an item that is not

legal for the finder to possess. A county, city, or town designating an alternate department or governmental entity under subsection (1) of this section shall establish procedures for ensuring these types of property are directed to the chief law enforcement officer or his or her designated representative. [2020 c 26 § 15.]

Intent—2020 c 26: "The legislature recognizes that proper storage and preservation of evidence, including maintaining chain of custody requirements, are critical to any successful investigation and prosecution. Unreported sexual assault kits are, therefore, most appropriately stored and preserved by law enforcement agencies. The legislature further recognizes that some agencies are facing storage capacity constraints. Agencies are currently responsible for storing found property, regardless if the property is associated with a criminal investigation. Therefore, the legislature hereby intends to provide flexibility for local governments to designate an alternate entity to store found property in order to allow those agencies with capacity issues to prioritize storage space for evidence and potential evidence in criminal investigations." [2020 c 26 § 9.]

Chapter 63.24 RCW

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY IN HANDS OF BAILEE

Sections

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 63.24.150 | Notice to owner. |
| 63.24.160 | Disposition of unclaimed property—Donation to charitable organization or transmittal to police or sheriff. |
| 63.24.170 | Bailee not liable to owner—Reimbursed for reasonable costs. |

Abandoned inmate personal property: Chapter 63.42 RCW.

Unclaimed property in hands of state patrol: Chapter 63.35 RCW.

63.24.150 Notice to owner. Unless otherwise provided between the parties, if personal property deposited with a bailee is unclaimed for a period of thirty days, the bailee shall notify the owner, if known, either personally or by mail that the property is subject to disposition under RCW 63.24.160. [1981 c 154 § 4.]

63.24.160 Disposition of unclaimed property—Donation to charitable organization or transmittal to police or sheriff. If property not covered by chapter 63.26 RCW remains unclaimed sixty days after notice is given, or, if the owner's identity or address is unknown, sixty days from when notice was attempted, the bailee shall:

- (1) If the reasonable aggregate value of the unclaimed property is less than one hundred dollars, donate the property, or proceeds thereof, to a charitable organization exempt from federal income tax under the federal internal revenue code; or
- (2) If the reasonable aggregate value of the unclaimed property is one hundred dollars or more, forward the property to the chief of police or sheriff for disposition as unclaimed property under chapter 63.32 or 63.40 RCW. [1988 c 226 § 1; 1981 c 154 § 5.]

63.24.170 Bailee not liable to owner—Reimbursed for reasonable costs. A bailee is not liable to the owner for unclaimed property disposed of in good faith in accordance with the requirements of this chapter. A bailee shall be reimbursed from the proceeds of sale of any unclaimed property disposed of under RCW 63.24.160 for the reasonable costs or charges for any goods or services provided by the bailee regarding the property, and for the costs to provide notice to the owner. [1990 c 41 § 1; 1981 c 154 § 6.]

Chapter 63.26 RCW

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY HELD BY MUSEUM OR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sections

63.26.010	Definitions.
63.26.020	Abandoned property—Notice.
63.26.030	Loaned property deemed donated—Notice of owner's change of address—Notice of provisions of chapter.
63.26.040	Notice of abandonment of property.
63.26.050	Vesting of title in museum or historical society—Subsequent purchase from museum or historical society.

63.26.010 Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Museum or historical society" means an institution operated by a nonprofit corporation, nonprofit association, or public agency, primarily educational, scientific, historic, or aesthetic in purpose, which owns, borrows, studies, or cares for tangible objects, including archives, and exhibits them as appropriate.

(2) "Property" includes all documents and tangible objects, animate and inanimate, under the care of a museum or historical society which have intrinsic scientific, historic, artistic, or cultural value. [1988 c 226 § 3.]

63.26.020 Abandoned property—Notice. Any property held by a museum or historical society within the state, other than by terms of a loan agreement, that has been held for five years or more and has remained unclaimed shall be deemed to be abandoned. Such property shall become the property of the museum or historical society if the museum or society has given notice pursuant to RCW 63.26.040 and no assertion of title has been filed for the property within ninety days from the date of the second published notice. [1988 c 226 § 4.]

63.26.030 Loaned property deemed donated—Notice of owner's change of address—Notice of provisions of chapter. (1) Property subject to a loan agreement which is on loan to a museum or historical society shall be deemed to be donated to the museum or society if no claim is made or action filed to recover the property after termination or expiration of the loan and if the museum or society has given notice pursuant to RCW 63.26.040 and no assertion of title has been filed within ninety days from the date of the second published notice.

(2) A museum or society may terminate a loan of property if the property was loaned to the museum or society for an indefinite term and the property has been held by the museum or society for five years or more. Property on "permanent loan" shall be deemed to be loaned for an indefinite term.

(3) If property was loaned to the museum or society for a specified term, the museum or society may give notice of termination of the loan at any time after expiration of the specified term.

(4) It is the responsibility of the owner of property on loan to a museum or society to notify the museum or society promptly in writing of any change of address or change in ownership of the property.

(5) When a museum or society accepts a loan of property, the museum or society shall inform the owner in writing of the provisions of this chapter. [1988 c 226 § 5.]

63.26.040 Notice of abandonment of property. (1) When a museum or historical society is required to give notice of abandonment of property or of termination of a loan, the museum or historical society shall mail such notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known owner at the most recent address of such owner as shown on the museum's or society's records. If the museum or society has no address on record, or the museum or society does not receive written proof of receipt of the mailed notice within thirty days of the date the notice was mailed, the museum or society shall publish notice, at least once each week for two consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in both the county in which the museum is located and the county in which the last known address, if available, of the owner is located.

(2) The published notice shall contain:

- (a) A description of the unclaimed property;
- (b) The name and last known address of the owner;
- (c) A request that all persons who may have any knowledge of the whereabouts of the owner provide written notice to the museum or society; and
- (d) A statement that if written assertion of title is not presented by the owner to the museum or society within ninety days from the date of the second published notice, the property shall be deemed abandoned or donated and shall become the property of the museum or society.

(3) For purposes of this chapter, if the loan of property was made to a branch of a museum or society, the museum or society is deemed to be located in the county in which the branch is located. Otherwise the museum or society is located in the county in which it has its principal place of business. [1988 c 226 § 6.]

63.26.050 Vesting of title in museum or historical society—Subsequent purchase from museum or historical society. (1) If no written assertion of title has been presented by the owner to the museum or society within ninety days from the date of the second published notice, title to the property shall vest in the museum or historical society, free of all claims of the owner and of all persons claiming under the owner.

(2) One who purchases or otherwise acquires property from a museum or historical society acquires good title to the property if the museum or society has acquired title to the property under this chapter. [1988 c 226 § 7.]

Chapter 63.29 RCW

UNIFORM UNCLAIMED PROPERTY ACT

Sections

63.29.010	Definitions and use of terms.
63.29.020	Property presumed abandoned—General rule—Exceptions.
63.29.030	General rules for taking custody of intangible unclaimed property.
63.29.040	Travelers checks and money orders.
63.29.050	Checks, drafts, and similar instruments issued or certified by banking and financial organizations.
63.29.060	Bank deposits and funds in financial organizations.
63.29.070	Funds owing under life insurance policies.

- 63.29.080 Deposits held by utilities.
- 63.29.090 Refunds held by business associations.
- 63.29.100 Stock and other intangible interests in business associations.
- 63.29.110 Property of business associations held in course of dissolution.
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- 63.29.380 Information and records confidential.
- 63.29.900 Effect of new provisions—Clarification of application.
- 63.29.902 Uniformity of application and construction.
- 63.29.903 Short title.
- 63.29.905 Effective date—1983 c 179.
- 63.29.906 Effective date—1996 c 45.

Abandoned inmate personal property: Chapter 63.42 RCW.
Unclaimed property in hands of state patrol: Chapter 63.35 RCW.

63.29.010 Definitions and use of terms. As used in this chapter, 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 property held, issued, or owing by the holder.
- (2) "Attorney general" means the chief legal officer of this state referred to in chapter 43.10 RCW.
- (3) "Banking organization" means a bank, trust company, savings bank, land bank, safe deposit company, private banker, or any organization defined by other law as a bank or banking organization.
- (4) "Business association" means a nonpublic corporation, joint stock company, investment company, business trust, partnership, or association for business purposes of two or more individuals, whether or not for profit, including a banking organization, financial organization, insurance company, or utility.
- (5) "Department" means the department of revenue established under RCW 82.01.050.

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

(7) "Fare card" means any pass or instrument, and value contained therein, purchased to utilize public transportation facilities or services. "Fare card" does not include "gift card" or "gift certificate" as those terms are defined in RCW 19.240.010.

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

(9) "Gift certificate" has the same meaning as in RCW 19.240.010.

(10) "Holder" means a person, wherever organized or domiciled, who is:

- (a) In possession of property belonging to another;
- (b) A trustee; or
- (c) Indebted to another on an obligation.

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

(12) "Intangible property" does not include contract claims which are unliquidated but does include:

- (a) Moneys, checks, drafts, deposits, interest, dividends, and income;
- (b) Credit balances, customer overpayments, gift certificates, security deposits, refunds, credit memos, unpaid wages, unused airline tickets, and unidentified remittances, but does not include discounts which represent credit balances for which no consideration was given;
- (c) Stocks, and other intangible ownership interests in business associations;
- (d) Moneys deposited to redeem stocks, bonds, coupons, and other securities, or to make distributions;
- (e) Liquidated amounts due and payable under the terms of insurance policies; and
- (f) Amounts distributable from a trust or custodial fund established under a plan to provide health, welfare, pension, vacation, severance, retirement, death, stock purchase, profit sharing, employee savings, supplemental unemployment insurance, or similar benefits.

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

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

(15) "Person" means an individual, business association, state or other government, governmental subdivision or agency, public corporation, public authority, estate, trust, two or more persons having a joint or common interest, or any other legal or commercial entity.

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

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

(18) "Utility" means a person who owns or operates for public use any plant, equipment, property, franchise, or license for the transmission of communications or the production, storage, transmission, sale, delivery, or furnishing of electricity, water, steam, or gas. [2012 c 117 § 177; 2005 c 285 § 1; 2004 c 168 § 13; 1983 c 179 § 1.]

Reviser's note: The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(6) This chapter does not apply to a gift certificate lawfully issued under chapter 19.240 RCW, except lawfully issued gift certificates presumed abandoned under RCW 63.29.110. Nothing in this section limits the application of chapter 19.240 RCW.

(7) Except as provided in RCW 63.29.350, this chapter does not apply to excess proceeds held by counties, cities, towns, and other municipal or quasi-municipal corporations from foreclosures for delinquent property taxes, assessments, or other liens.

(8)(a) This chapter does not apply to a premium paid by an agricultural fair by check.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection the following definitions apply:

(i) "Agricultural fair" means a fair or exhibition that is intended to promote agriculture by including a balanced variety of exhibits of livestock and agricultural products, as well as related manufactured products and arts, including: Prod-

ucts of the farm home and educational contests, displays, and demonstrations designed to train youth and to promote the welfare of farmers and rural living; and

(ii) "Premium" means an amount paid for exhibits and educational contests, displays, and demonstrations of an educational nature. A "premium" does not include judges' fees and expenses; livestock sale revenues; or prizes or amounts paid for promotion or entertainment activities such as queen contests, parades, dances, rodeos, and races. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 2101; 2011 c 116 § 1; 2010 c 29 § 1. Prior: 2005 c 502 § 3; 2005 c 367 § 1; 2004 c 168 § 14; 2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 1; 1992 c 122 § 1; 1988 c 226 § 2; 1983 c 179 § 2.]

Effective dates—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6: See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

Application—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 §§ 2101, 2102, 2106, 2108, and 2110: See note following RCW 63.29.190.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.29.030 General rules for taking custody of intangible unclaimed property. Unless otherwise provided in this chapter or by other statute of this state, intangible property is subject to the custody of this state as unclaimed property if the conditions raising a presumption of abandonment under RCW 63.29.020 and 63.29.050 through 63.29.160 are satisfied and:

(1) The last known address, as shown on the records of the holder, of the apparent owner is in this state;

(2) The records of the holder do not reflect the identity of the person entitled to the property and it is established that the last known address of the person entitled to the property is in this state;

(3) The records of the holder do not reflect the last known address of the apparent owner, and it is established that:

(a) The last known address of the person entitled to the property is in this state, or

(b) The holder is a domiciliary or a government or governmental subdivision or agency of this state and has not previously paid or delivered the property to the state of the last known address of the apparent owner or other person entitled to the property;

(4) The last known address, as shown on the records of the holder, of the apparent owner is in a state that does not provide by law for the escheat or custodial taking of the property or its escheat or unclaimed property law is not applicable to the property and the holder is a domiciliary or a government or governmental subdivision or agency of this state: PROVIDED, That a holder may rely, with acquittance, upon a list of such states which shall be provided by the department;

(5) The last known address, as shown on the records of the holder, of the apparent owner is in a foreign nation and the holder is a domiciliary or a government or governmental subdivision or agency of this state; or

(6) The transaction out of which the property arose occurred in this state; and

(a)(i) The last known address of the apparent owner or other person entitled to the property is unknown, or

(ii) The last known address of the apparent owner or other person entitled to the property is in a state that does not provide by law for the escheat or custodial taking of the prop-

erty or its escheat or unclaimed property law is not applicable to the property: PROVIDED, That a holder may rely, with acquittance, upon a list of such states which shall be provided by the department, and

(b) The holder is a domiciliary of a state that does not provide by law for the escheat or custodial taking of the property or its escheat or unclaimed property law is not applicable to the property. [1983 c 179 § 3.]

63.29.040 Travelers checks and money orders. (1) Subject to subsection (4) of this section, any sum payable on a travelers check that has been outstanding for more than fifteen years after its issuance is presumed abandoned unless the owner, within fifteen years, has communicated in writing with the issuer concerning it or otherwise indicated an interest as evidenced by a memorandum or other record on file prepared by an employee of the issuer.

(2) Subject to subsection (4) of this section, any sum payable on a money order or similar written instrument, other than a third party bank check, that has been outstanding for more than five years after its issuance is presumed abandoned unless the owner, within five years, has communicated in writing with the issuer concerning it or otherwise indicated an interest as evidenced by a memorandum or other record on file prepared by an employee of the issuer.

(3) A holder may not deduct from the amount of a travelers check or money order any charge imposed by reason of the failure to present the instrument for payment unless there is a valid and enforceable written contract between the issuer and the owner of the instrument pursuant to which the issuer may impose a charge and the issuer regularly imposes such charges and does not regularly reverse or otherwise cancel them.

(4) No sum payable on a travelers check, money order, or similar written instrument, other than a third party bank check, described in subsections (1) and (2) of this section may be subjected to the custody of this state as unclaimed property unless:

(a) The records of the issuer show that the travelers check, money order, or similar written instrument was purchased in this state;

(b) The issuer has its principal place of business in this state and the records of the issuer do not show the state in which the travelers check, money order, or similar written instrument was purchased; or

(c) The issuer has its principal place of business in this state, the records of the issuer show the state in which the travelers check, money order, or similar written instrument was purchased and the laws of the state of purchase do not provide for the escheat or custodial taking of the property or its escheat or unclaimed property law is not applicable to the property. The department shall provide to the issuer a list of all such states and the issuer may rely with acquittance upon such list.

(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, subsection (4) of this section applies to sums payable on travelers checks, money orders, and similar written instruments presumed abandoned on or after February 1, 1965, except to the extent that those sums have been paid over to a state. [1983 c 179 § 4.]

(2020 Ed.)

63.29.050 Checks, drafts, and similar instruments issued or certified by banking and financial organizations. (1) Any sum payable on a check, draft, or similar instrument, except those subject to RCW 63.29.040, on which a banking or financial organization is directly liable, including a cashier's check and a certified check, which has been outstanding for more than three years after it was payable or after its issuance if payable on demand, is presumed abandoned, unless the owner, within three years, has communicated in writing with the banking or financial organization concerning it or otherwise indicated an interest as evidenced by a memorandum or other record on file prepared by an employee thereof.

(2) A holder may not deduct from the amount of any instrument subject to this section any charge imposed by reason of the failure to present the instrument for payment unless there is a valid and enforceable written contract between the holder and the owner of the instrument pursuant to which the holder may impose a charge, and the holder regularly imposes such charges and does not regularly reverse or otherwise cancel them. [2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 2; 1983 c 179 § 5.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.29.060 Bank deposits and funds in financial organizations. (1) Any demand, savings, or matured time deposit with a banking or financial organization, including a deposit that is automatically renewable, and any funds paid toward the purchase of a share, a mutual investment certificate, or any other interest in a banking or financial organization is presumed abandoned unless the owner, within three years, has:

(a) In the case of a deposit, increased or decreased its amount or presented the passbook or other similar evidence of the deposit for the crediting of interest;

(b) Communicated in writing with the banking or financial organization concerning the property;

(c) Otherwise indicated an interest in the property as evidenced by a memorandum or other record on file prepared by an employee of the banking or financial organization;

(d) Owned other property to which subsection (1)(a), (b), or (c) of this section applies and if the banking or financial organization communicates in writing with the owner with regard to the property that would otherwise be presumed abandoned under this subsection at the address to which communications regarding the other property regularly are sent; or

(e) Had another relationship with the banking or financial organization concerning which the owner has:

(i) In the case of a deposit, increased or decreased the amount of the deposit or presented the passbook or other similar evidence of the deposit for the crediting of interest;

(ii) Communicated in writing with the banking or financial organization; or

(iii) Otherwise indicated an interest as evidenced by a memorandum or other record on file prepared by an employee of the banking or financial organization and if the banking or financial organization communicates in writing with the owner with regard to the property that would otherwise be abandoned under this subsection at the address to which communications regarding the other relationship regularly are sent.

(2) For purposes of subsection (1) of this section property includes interest and dividends.

(3) This chapter shall not apply to deposits made by a guardian or decedent's personal representative with a banking organization when the deposit is subject to withdrawal only upon the order of the court in the guardianship or estate proceeding.

(4) A holder may not impose with respect to property described in subsection (1) of this section any charge due to dormancy or inactivity or cease payment of interest unless:

(a) There is an enforceable written contract between the holder and the owner of the property pursuant to which the holder may impose a charge or cease payment of interest;

(b) For property in excess of ten dollars, the holder, no more than three months before the initial imposition of those charges or cessation of interest, has given written notice to the owner of the amount of those charges at the last known address of the owner stating that those charges will be imposed or that interest will cease, but the notice provided in this section need not be given with respect to charges imposed or interest ceased before June 30, 1983; and

(c) The holder regularly imposes such charges or ceases payment of interest and does not regularly reverse or otherwise cancel them or retroactively credit interest with respect to the property.

(5) Any property described in subsection (1) of this section that is automatically renewable is matured for purposes of subsection (1) of this section upon the expiration of its initial time period, or after one year if the initial period is less than one year, but in the case of any renewal to which the owner consents at or about the time of renewal by communicating in writing with the banking or financial organization or otherwise indicating consent as evidenced by a memorandum or other record on file prepared by an employee of the organization, the property is matured upon the expiration of the last time period for which consent was given. If, at the time provided for delivery in RCW 63.29.190, a penalty or forfeiture in the payment of interest would result from the delivery of the property, the time for delivery is extended until the time when no penalty or forfeiture would result. [2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 3; 1983 c 179 § 6.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.29.070 Funds owing under life insurance policies.

(1) Funds held or owing under any life or endowment insurance policy or annuity contract that has matured or terminated are presumed abandoned if unclaimed for more than three years after the funds became due and payable as established from the records of the insurance company holding or owing the funds, but property described in subsection (3)(b) of this section is presumed abandoned if unclaimed for more than two years.

(2) If a person other than the insured or annuitant is entitled to the funds and an address of the person is not known to the company or it is not definite and certain from the records of the company who is entitled to the funds, it is presumed that the last known address of the person entitled to the funds is the same as the last known address of the insured or annuitant according to the records of the company.

(3) For purposes of this chapter, a life or endowment insurance policy or annuity contract not matured by actual

proof of the death of the insured or annuitant according to the records of the company is matured and the proceeds due and payable if:

(a) The company knows that the insured or annuitant has died; or

(b)(i) The insured has attained, or would have attained if he or she were living, the limiting age under the mortality table on which the reserve is based;

(ii) The policy was in force at the time the insured attained, or would have attained, the limiting age specified in (b)(i) of this subsection; and

(iii) Neither the insured nor any other person appearing to have an interest in the policy within the preceding two years, according to the records of the company, has assigned, readjusted, or paid premiums on the policy, subjected the policy to a loan, corresponded in writing with the company concerning the policy, or otherwise indicated an interest as evidenced by a memorandum or other record on file prepared by an employee of the company.

(4) For purposes of this chapter, the application of an automatic premium loan provision or other nonforfeiture provision contained in an insurance policy does not prevent a policy from being matured or terminated under subsection (1) of this section if the insured has died or the insured or the beneficiaries of the policy otherwise have become entitled to the proceeds thereof before the depletion of the cash surrender value of a policy by the application of those provisions.

(5) If the laws of this state or the terms of the life insurance policy require the company to give notice to the insured or owner that an automatic premium loan provision or other nonforfeiture provision has been exercised and the notice, given to an insured or owner whose last known address according to the records of the company is in this state, is undeliverable, the company shall make a reasonable search to ascertain the policyholder's correct address to which the notice must be mailed.

(6) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the company learns of the death of the insured or annuitant and the beneficiary has not communicated with the insurer within four months after the death, the company shall take reasonable steps to pay the proceeds to the beneficiary.

(7) Commencing two years after June 30, 1983, every change of beneficiary form issued by an insurance company under any life or endowment insurance policy or annuity contract to an insured or owner who is a resident of this state must request the following information:

(a) The name of each beneficiary, or if a class of beneficiaries is named, the name of each current beneficiary in the class;

(b) The address of each beneficiary; and

(c) The relationship of each beneficiary to the insured.

[2012 c 117 § 178; 2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 4; 1983 c 179 § 7.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.29.080 Deposits held by utilities. (1) A deposit, including any interest thereon, made by a subscriber with a utility to secure payment or any sum paid in advance for utility services to be furnished, less any lawful deductions, that remains unclaimed by the owner for more than one year after termination of the services for which the deposit or advance payment was made is presumed abandoned.

(2) Any sum which a utility has been ordered to refund and which was received for utility services rendered in this state, together with any interest thereon, less any lawful deductions, that has remained unclaimed by the person appearing on the records of the utility entitled thereto for more than one year after the date it became payable in accordance with the final determination or order providing for the refund is presumed abandoned. [1983 c 179 § 8.]

63.29.090 Refunds held by business associations.

Except to the extent otherwise ordered by the court or administrative agency, any sum that a business association has been ordered to refund by a court or administrative agency which has remained unclaimed by the owner for more than one year after it became payable in accordance with the final determination or order providing for the refund, whether or not the final determination or order requires any person entitled to a refund to make a claim for it, is presumed abandoned. [1983 c 179 § 9.]

63.29.100 Stock and other intangible interests in business associations.

(1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (5) of this section, stock or other intangible ownership interest in a business association, the existence of which is evidenced by records available to the association, is presumed abandoned and, with respect to the interest, the association is the holder, if a dividend, distribution, or other sum payable as a result of the interest has remained unclaimed by the owner for three years and the owner within three years has not:

(a) Communicated in writing with the association regarding the interest or a dividend, distribution, or other sum payable as a result of the interest; or

(b) Otherwise communicated with the association regarding the interest or a dividend, distribution, or other sum payable as a result of the interest, as evidenced by a memorandum or other record on file with the association prepared by an employee of the association.

(2) At the expiration of a three-year period following the failure of the owner to claim a dividend, distribution, or other sum payable to the owner as a result of the interest, the interest is not presumed abandoned unless there have been at least five dividends, distributions, or other sums paid during the period, none of which has been claimed by the owner. If five dividends, distributions, or other sums are paid during the three-year period, the period leading to a presumption of abandonment commences on the date payment of the first such unclaimed dividend, distribution, or other sum became due and payable. If five dividends, distributions, or other sums are not paid during the presumptive period, the period continues to run until there have been five dividends, distributions, or other sums that have not been claimed by the owner.

(3) The running of the three-year period of abandonment ceases immediately upon the occurrence of a communication referred to in subsection (1) of this section. If any future dividend, distribution, or other sum payable to the owner as a result of the interest is subsequently not claimed by the owner, a new period of abandonment commences and relates back to the time a subsequent dividend, distribution, or other sum became due and payable.

(4) At the time any interest is presumed abandoned under this section, any dividend, distribution, or other sum then held for or owing to the owner as a result of the interest, and not previously presumed abandoned, is presumed abandoned.

(5) This chapter shall not apply to any stock or other intangible ownership interest enrolled in a plan that provides for the automatic reinvestment of dividends, distributions, or other sums payable as a result of the interest unless:

(a) The records available to the administrator of the plan show, with respect to any intangible ownership interest not enrolled in the reinvestment plan, that the owner has not within three years communicated in any manner described in subsection (1) of this section; or

(b) Three years have elapsed since the location of the owner became unknown to the association, as evidenced by the return of official shareholder notifications or communications by the postal service as undeliverable, and the owner has not within those three years communicated in any manner described in subsection (1) of this section. The three-year period from the return of official shareholder notifications or communications shall commence from the earlier of the return of the second such mailing or the date the holder discontinues mailings to the shareholder. [2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 5; 1996 c 45 § 1; 1983 c 179 § 10.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.29.110 Property of business associations held in course of dissolution.

Intangible property distributable in the course of a dissolution of a business association which remains unclaimed by the owner for more than one year after the date specified for final distribution is presumed abandoned. [1983 c 179 § 11.]

63.29.120 Property held by agents and fiduciaries.

(1) Intangible property and any income or increment derived therefrom held in a fiduciary capacity for the benefit of another person is presumed abandoned unless the owner, within three years after it has become payable or distributable, has increased or decreased the principal, accepted payment of principal or income, communicated concerning the property, or otherwise indicated an interest as evidenced by a memorandum or other record on file prepared by the fiduciary.

(2) Funds in an individual retirement account or a retirement plan for self-employed individuals or similar account or plan established pursuant to the internal revenue laws of the United States are not payable or distributable within the meaning of subsection (1) of this section unless, under the terms of the account or plan, distribution of all or part of the funds would then be mandatory.

(3) For the purpose of this section, a person who holds property as an agent for a business association is deemed to hold the property in a fiduciary capacity for that business association alone, unless the agreement between him or her and the business association provides otherwise.

(4) For the purposes of this chapter, a person who is deemed to hold property in a fiduciary capacity for a business association alone is the holder of the property only insofar as the interest of the business association in the property is concerned, and the business association is the holder of the property insofar as the interest of any other person in the property

is concerned. [2012 c 117 § 179; 2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 6; 1983 c 179 § 12.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.29.130 Property held by courts and public agencies—When abandoned—Overpayments. Intangible property held for the owner by a court, state or other government, governmental subdivision or agency, public corporation, public authority, or the United States or any instrumentality of the United States that remains unclaimed by the owner for more than two years after becoming payable or distributable is presumed abandoned. However, courts may retain overpayments made in connection with any litigation, including traffic, criminal, and noncriminal matters, in an amount less than or equal to ten dollars. These overpayments shall be remitted by the clerk of the court to the local treasurer for deposit in the local current expense fund. [2007 c 183 § 1; 1993 c 498 § 2; 1983 c 179 § 13.]

63.29.133 Property held by landlord. Intangible property held by a landlord as a result of a sheriff's sale pursuant to RCW 59.18.312 that remains unclaimed for a period of one year from the date of the sale is presumed abandoned. [1992 c 38 § 9.]

Intent—Effective date—1992 c 38: See notes following RCW 59.18.352.

63.29.135 Abandoned intangible property held by local government. A local government holding abandoned intangible property that is not forwarded to the department of revenue, as authorized under RCW 63.29.190, shall not be required to maintain current records of this property for longer than five years after the property is presumed to be abandoned, and at that time may archive records of this intangible property and transfer the intangible property to its general fund. However, the local government shall remain liable to pay the intangible property to a person or entity subsequently establishing its ownership of this intangible property. [1990 2nd ex.s. c 1 § 301.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.29.140 Gift certificates and credit memos. (1) A gift certificate or a credit memo issued in the ordinary course of an issuer's business which remains unclaimed by the owner for more than three years after becoming payable or distributable is presumed abandoned.

(2) In the case of a gift certificate, the amount presumed abandoned is the price paid by the purchaser for the gift certificate. In the case of a credit memo, the amount presumed abandoned is the amount credited to the recipient of the memo.

(3) A gift certificate that is lawfully issued under chapter 19.240 RCW and that is presumed abandoned under this section may, but need not be, included in the report as provided under RCW 63.29.170(4). [2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 2102; 2004 c 168 § 15; 2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 7; 1983 c 179 § 14.]

Effective dates—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6: See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

Application—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 §§ 2101, 2102, 2106, 2108, and 2110: See note following RCW 63.29.190.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.29.150 Wages. Unpaid wages, including wages represented by unrepresented payroll checks, owing in the ordinary course of the holder's business which remain unclaimed by the owner for more than one year after becoming payable are presumed abandoned. [1983 c 179 § 15.]

63.29.160 Contents of safe deposit box or other safekeeping repository. All tangible and intangible property held in a safe deposit box or any other safekeeping repository in this state in the ordinary course of the holder's business and proceeds resulting from the sale of the property permitted by other law, which remain unclaimed by the owner for more than five years after the lease or rental period on the box or other repository has expired, are presumed abandoned. [1983 c 179 § 16.]

63.29.165 Property in self-storage facility. The excess proceeds of a sale conducted pursuant to RCW 19.150.080 by an owner of a self-service storage facility to satisfy the lien and costs of storage which are not claimed by the occupant of the storage space or any other person which remains unclaimed for more than six months are presumed abandoned. [1993 c 498 § 4; 1988 c 240 § 21.]

63.29.170 Report of abandoned property. (1) A person holding property presumed abandoned and subject to custody as unclaimed property under this chapter must report to the department concerning the property as provided in this section.

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

(a) Except with respect to travelers checks and money orders, the name, if known, and last known address, if any, of each person appearing from the records of the holder to be the owner of property with a value of more than fifty dollars presumed abandoned under this chapter;

(b) In the case of unclaimed funds of more than fifty dollars held or owing under any life or endowment insurance policy or annuity contract, the full name and last known address of the insured or annuitant and of the beneficiary according to the records of the insurance company holding or owing the funds;

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

(d) The nature and identifying number, if any, or description of the property and the amount appearing from the records to be due, but items with a value of fifty dollars or less each may be reported in the aggregate;

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

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

(3) If the person holding property presumed abandoned and subject to custody as unclaimed property is a successor to other persons who previously held the property for the apparent owner or the holder has changed his or her name while holding the property, the holder shall file with the report all

known names and addresses of each previous holder of the property.

(4) The report must be filed before November 1st of each year and shall include, except as provided in RCW 63.29.140(3), all property presumed abandoned and subject to custody as unclaimed property under this chapter that is in the holder's possession as of the preceding June 30th. On written request by any person required to file a report, the department may postpone the reporting date.

(5)(a) Beginning July 1, 2016, reports due under this section must be filed electronically in a form or manner provided or authorized by the department. However, the department, upon request or its own initiative, may relieve any holder or class of holders from the electronic filing requirement under this subsection for good cause as determined by the department.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, "good cause" means:

(i) A circumstance or condition exists that, in the department's judgment, prevents the holder from electronically filing the report due under this section; or

(ii) The department determines that relief from the electronic filing requirement under this subsection supports the efficient or effective administration of this chapter.

(6) After May 1st, but before August 1st, of each year in which a report is required by this section, the holder in possession of property presumed abandoned and subject to custody as unclaimed property under this chapter must send written notice to the apparent owner at the last known address informing him or her that the holder is in possession of property subject to this chapter if:

(a) The holder has in its records an address for the apparent owner which the holder's records do not disclose to be inaccurate;

(b) The claim of the apparent owner is not barred by the statute of limitations; and

(c) The property has a value of more than seventy-five dollars. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 2103; 2004 c 168 § 16; 2003 c 237 § 1; 1996 c 45 § 2; 1993 c 498 § 7; 1983 c 179 § 17.]

Effective dates—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6: See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.29.180 Notice and publication of information about unclaimed property. (1) The department must cause a notice to be published not later than November 1st, immediately following the report required by RCW 63.29.170 in the printed or online version of a newspaper of general circulation within this state, which the department determines is most likely to give notice to the apparent owner of the property.

(2) The published notice must be entitled "Notice to Owners of Unclaimed Property" and contain a summary explanation of how owners may obtain information about unclaimed property reported to the department.

(3) Not later than September 1st, immediately following the report required by RCW 63.29.170, the department must mail a notice to each person whose last known address is listed in the report and who appears to be entitled to property with a value of more than seventy-five dollars presumed abandoned under this chapter and any beneficiary of a life or endowment insurance policy or annuity contract for whom

the department has a last known address. The department is not required to mail notice under this subsection if the address listed in the report appears to the department to be insufficient for the purpose of the delivery of mail.

(4) The mailed notice must contain:

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

(b) The name of the person reporting the property and the type of property described in the report.

(5) This section is not applicable to sums payable on travelers checks, money orders, and other written instruments presumed abandoned under RCW 63.29.040. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 2104; 2005 c 367 § 2; 2003 c 237 § 2; 1993 c 498 § 9; 1986 c 84 § 1; 1983 c 179 § 18.]

Effective dates—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6: See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

63.29.190 Payment or delivery of abandoned property. (1)(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, a person who is required to file a report under RCW 63.29.170 must pay or deliver to the department all abandoned property required to be reported at the time of filing the report. Beginning July 1, 2016, holders who are required to file a report electronically under this chapter must remit payments under this section by electronic funds transfer or other form of electronic payment acceptable to the department. However, the department, upon request or its own initiative, may relieve any holder or class of holders from the electronic payment requirement under this subsection for good cause as determined by the department.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, "good cause" means:

(i) A circumstance or condition exists that, in the department's judgment, prevents the holder from remitting payments due under this section electronically; or

(ii) The department determines that relief from the electronic payment requirement under this subsection supports the efficient or effective administration of this chapter.

(2)(a) Counties, cities, towns, and other municipal and quasi-municipal corporations that hold funds representing warrants canceled pursuant to RCW 36.22.100 and 39.56.040, uncashed checks, and property tax overpayments or refunds may retain the funds until the owner notifies them and establishes ownership as provided in RCW 63.29.135. Counties, cities, towns, or other municipal or quasi-municipal corporations must provide to the department a report of property it is holding pursuant to this section. The report must identify the property and owner in the manner provided in RCW 63.29.170 and the department must publish the information as provided in RCW 63.29.180.

(b)(i) A public transportation authority that holds funds representing value on abandoned fare cards may retain the funds until the owner notifies the authority and establishes ownership as provided in RCW 63.29.135.

(ii) For the purposes of this subsection (2)(b), "public transportation authority" means a municipality, as defined in RCW 35.58.272, a regional transit authority authorized by chapter 81.112 RCW, a public mass transportation system authorized by chapter 47.60 RCW, or a city transportation authority authorized by chapter 35.95A RCW.

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

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

(4) The holder of an interest under RCW 63.29.100 must deliver a duplicate certificate or other evidence of ownership if the holder does not issue certificates of ownership to the department. Upon delivery of a duplicate certificate to the department, the holder and any transfer agent, registrar, or other person acting for or on behalf of a holder in executing or delivering the duplicate certificate is relieved of all liability of every kind in accordance with RCW 63.29.200 to every person, including any person acquiring the original certificate or the duplicate of the certificate issued to the department, for any losses or damages resulting to any person by the issuance and delivery to the department of the duplicate certificate. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 2105. Prior: 2005 c 502 § 4; 2005 c 367 § 3; 2005 c 285 § 2; 1993 c 498 § 8; 1991 c 311 § 7; 1990 2nd ex.s. c 1 § 302; 1983 c 179 § 19.]

Effective dates—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6: See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.29.192 Penalty and interest paid in excess—Refunds—Returns. (1)(a) If, upon receipt of an application by a holder for a refund or return of property, or upon an examination of the report or records of any holder, it is determined by the department that any amount, interest, or penalty has been paid in excess of that properly due under this chapter or that any property was delivered to the department under this chapter in error, then with the exception of amounts delivered by the department to a claimant under RCW 63.29.240, the excess amount must be refunded to the holder, or the property delivered in error returned to the holder, as the case may be.

(b)(i) Except as otherwise provided in RCW 63.29.200(2) or this section, no refund or return of property may be made for any amount or property paid or delivered, or for any interest or penalty paid, more than six years after the end of the calendar year in which the payment or delivery occurred.

(ii) The expiration of the limitations period in this subsection will not bar a refund or the return of property if a complete application for such refund or return of property was received by the department before the expiration of such limitations period.

(2) The execution of a written waiver signed by the holder and the department will extend the time for making a refund of any amounts paid, or a return of property delivered in error, during, or attributable to, the years covered by the waiver if, prior to the expiration of the waiver period, a com-

plete application for refund or return of such amounts or property is made by the holder or the department discovers a refund is due or a return of property under this section is required.

(3) For purposes of subsections (1) and (2) of this section, an application for a refund or return of property is complete if it includes information the department deems sufficient to substantiate the holder's claim for a refund or return of property. If the department receives an incomplete application before the expiration of the limitations period in subsection (1)(b)(i) of this section or before the expiration of an applicable waiver period as authorized under subsection (2) of this section, the department must provide the holder written notice of the deficiencies of information in the application and grant the holder thirty days from the date of such notice to provide sufficient documentation to substantiate the holder's claim for a refund or return of property. The department may, at its sole discretion, grant a holder up to an additional ninety days to substantiate its claim and specify in a written notice the expiration date of such additional period. If the holder provides sufficient substantiation documentation to the department within the additional time granted but after the expiration of the limitations period in subsection (1)(b)(i) of this section or an applicable waiver period as authorized under subsection (2) of this section, the holder will be deemed to have provided a complete application before the expiration of such limitations or waiver period. This subsection (3) may not be interpreted as governing the administration of applications for refund or return of property other than for purposes of the limitations period established in this section.

(4) Any such refunds must be made by means of vouchers approved by the department and by the issuance of state warrants drawn upon and payable from such funds as the legislature may provide. However, persons who are required to pay amounts due under this chapter electronically must have any refunds paid by electronic funds transfer if the department has the necessary account information to facilitate a refund by electronic funds transfer.

(5) Any judgment for which a recovery is granted by any court of competent jurisdiction, not appealed from, for amounts, penalties, or interest paid by the holder, and costs, in a suit by any holder must be paid in the same manner, as provided in subsection (4) of this section, upon the filing with the department of a certified copy of the order or judgment of the court.

(6) Interest at the rate computed under RCW 82.32.050(2) must be added to the amount of any refund allowed by the department or any court. Interest must be computed from the date the department received the excess payment, until the date the refund is issued. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 2110.]

Application—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 §§ 2101, 2102, 2106, 2108, and 2110: "(1) Section 2101 of this act applies only with respect to gift certificates issued on or after July 1, 2015.

(2) Section 2102 of this act applies only with respect to gift certificates issued on or after July 1, 2015.

(3) Section 2106 of this act applies only with respect to original assessments issued on or after July 1, 2015.

(4) Section 2108 of this act applies only with respect to reports initially due, or property initially payable or deliverable, or other duties that arise initially on or after *the effective date of section 2108 of this act.

(5) Section 2110 of this act applies only with respect to (a) requests for refund or the return of property, where the request is originally received by the department on or after July 1, 2015, and (b) excess payments or property improperly delivered, where such excess payments or improper delivery are discovered by the department on or after July 1, 2015." [2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 2114.]

***Reviser's note:** The effective date of section 2108 of this act is contingent. See note following RCW 63.29.340.

Effective dates—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6: See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

63.29.193 Petition for review—Denied application for refund or return. Any person having been issued an assessment by the department, or a denial of an application for a refund or return of property, under the provisions of this chapter is entitled to a review by the department conducted in accordance with the provisions of RCW 34.05.410 through 34.05.494, subject to judicial review under RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598. A petition for review under this section is timely if received in writing by the department before the due date of the assessment, including any extension of the due date granted by the department, or in the case of a refund or return application, thirty days after the department rejects the application in writing, regardless of any subsequent action by the department to reconsider its initial decision. The period for filing a petition for review under this section may be extended as provided in a rule adopted by the department under chapter 34.05 RCW or upon a written agreement signed by the holder and the department. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 2111.]

Effective dates—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6: See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

63.29.194 Appeal of payment or delivered property. (1) Any person who has paid or delivered property to the department under the provisions of this chapter, except one who has failed to keep and preserve records as required in this chapter, feeling aggrieved by such payment or delivery, may appeal to the superior court of Thurston county. The person filing a notice of appeal under this section is deemed the plaintiff, and the department, the defendant.

(2) An appeal under this section must be made within:

(a) The time limitation for a refund provided in RCW 63.29.192; or

(b) Thirty days after the department rejects in writing an application for refund or return of property, regardless of any subsequent action by the department to reconsider its initial decision, if:

(i) An application for refund or return of property has been made to the department within the time limitation provided in (a) of this subsection (2) or the limitation provided in RCW 63.29.200(2), as applicable; and

(ii) The time limitation provided under this subsection (2)(b) is later than the time limitation provided in (a) of this subsection (2).

(3)(a) In an appeal filed under this section, the plaintiff must set forth the amount or property, if any, payable or deliverable on the report or assessment that the plaintiff is contesting, which the holder concedes to be the correct amount payable or deliverable, and the reason why the amount payable or deliverable should be reduced or abated.

(b) The appeal is perfected only by serving a copy of the notice of appeal upon the department and filing the original with proof of service with the clerk of the superior court of Thurston county, within the time specified in subsection (2) of this section.

(4)(a) The trial in the superior court on appeal must be de novo and without the necessity of any pleadings other than the notice of appeal. At trial, the burden is on the plaintiff to (i) prove that the amount paid by that person is incorrect, either in whole or in part, or the property in question was delivered in error to the department, and (ii) establish the correct amount payable or the property required to be delivered to the department, if any.

(b) Both parties are entitled to subpoena the attendance of witnesses as in other civil actions and to produce evidence that is competent, relevant, and material to determine the correct amount due, if any, that should be paid by the plaintiff.

(c) Either party may seek appellate review in the same manner as other civil actions are appealed to the appellate courts.

(5) An appeal may be maintained under this section without the need for the plaintiff to first:

(a) Protest against the payment of any amount due or reportable under this chapter or to make any demand to have such amount refunded or returned; or

(b) Petition the department for a refund, return of property, or a review of its action as authorized in RCW 63.29.193.

(6) No court action or proceeding of any kind may be maintained by the plaintiff to recover any amount paid, delivered, or reported to the department under this chapter, except as provided in this section or as may be available to the plaintiff under RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598.

(7) No appeal may be maintained under this section with respect to matters reviewed by the department under the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 2112.]

Effective dates—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6: See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

63.29.195 Agreement—Established between a holder and the department. (1) The department may enter into an agreement in writing with any holder with respect to any duties under this chapter or any property or amounts due under this chapter, including penalties and interest.

(2) Upon its execution by all parties, the agreement is final and conclusive as to the periods, property, and any other matters expressly covered by the agreement. Except upon a showing of fraud or malfeasance, or of misrepresentation of a material fact:

(a) The agreement may not be reopened as to the matters agreed upon, nor may the agreement be modified, by any officer, employee, or agent of the state, or the holder; and

(b) In any suit, action, or proceeding, such agreement, or any determination, assessment, collection, payment, abatement, or refund, or credit made in accordance with the agreement, may not be annulled, modified, set aside, or disregarded.

(3) No agreement under this section may affect a holder's obligations to an owner or an owner's rights against a holder, except as expressly provided in RCW 63.29.200.

(4) No agreement under this section may include any indemnification of any holder for amounts or property that has not been paid or delivered to the department. Nothing in this subsection (4) may be construed to affect the finality and conclusiveness of any agreement under this section to the extent provided in subsection (2) of this section. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 2113.]

Effective dates—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6: See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

63.29.200 Custody by state—Holder relieved from liability—Reimbursement of holder paying claim—Reclaiming for owner—Defense of holder—Payment of safe deposit box or repository charges. (1) Upon the payment or delivery of property to the department, the state assumes custody and responsibility for the safekeeping of the property. A person who pays or delivers property to the department in good faith is relieved of all liability to the extent of the value of the property paid or delivered for any claim then existing or which thereafter may arise or be made in respect to the property.

(2) A holder who has paid money to the department pursuant to this chapter may make payment to any person appearing to the holder to be entitled to payment and, upon filing proof of payment and proof that the payee was entitled thereto, the department shall promptly reimburse the holder for the payment without imposing any fee or other charge. If reimbursement is sought for a payment made on an instrument, including a travelers check or money order, the holder must be reimbursed under this subsection upon filing proof that the instrument was duly presented and that payment was made to a person who appeared to the holder to be entitled to payment. The holder must be reimbursed for payment made under this subsection even if the payment was made to a person whose claim was barred under RCW 63.29.290(1).

(3) A holder who has delivered property (including a certificate of any interest in a business association) other than money to the department pursuant to this chapter may reclaim the property if still in the possession of the department, without paying any fee or other charge, upon filing proof that the owner has claimed the property from the holder.

(4) The department may accept the holder's affidavit as sufficient proof of the facts that entitle the holder to recover money and property under this section.

(5) If the holder pays or delivers property to the department in good faith and thereafter another person claims the property from the holder or another state claims the money or property under its laws relating to escheat or abandoned or unclaimed property, the department, upon written notice of the claim, shall defend the holder against the claim and indemnify the holder against any liability on the claim.

(6) For the purposes of this section, "good faith" means that:

(a) Payment or delivery was made in a reasonable attempt to comply with this chapter;

(b) The person delivering the property was not a fiduciary then in breach of trust in respect to the property and had a reasonable basis for believing, based on the facts then known to him or her, that the property was abandoned for the purposes of this chapter; and

(c) There is no showing that the records pursuant to which the delivery was made did not meet reasonable commercial standards of practice in the industry.

(7) Property removed from a safe deposit box or other safekeeping repository is received by the department subject to the holder's right under this subsection to be reimbursed for the actual cost of the opening and to any valid lien or contract providing for the holder to be reimbursed for unpaid rent or storage charges. The department shall reimburse or pay the holder out of the proceeds remaining after deducting the department's selling cost. The liability of the department for this reimbursement to the holder shall be limited to the proceeds of the sale of the property remaining after the deduction of the department's costs. [2012 c 117 § 180; 1983 c 179 § 20.]

63.29.210 Crediting of dividends, interest, or increments to owner's account. Whenever property other than money is paid or delivered to the department under this chapter, the owner is entitled to receive from the department any dividends, interest, or other increments realized or accruing on the property at or before liquidation or conversion thereof into money. [1983 c 179 § 21.]

63.29.220 Public sale of abandoned property. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the department, within five years after the receipt of abandoned property, must sell it to the highest bidder at public sale in whatever city in the state affords in the judgment of the department the most favorable market for the property involved. The department may decline the highest bid and reoffer the property for sale if, in the judgment of the department, the bid is insufficient. If, in the judgment of the department, the probable cost of sale exceeds the value of the property, it need not be offered for sale. Any sale held under this subsection must be preceded by a single publication of notice, at least three weeks in advance of sale, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the property is to be sold.

(2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (2)(a), the department must sell all securities delivered to the department as required by this chapter as soon as practicable, in the judgment of the department, after receipt by the department. However, this subsection does not apply with respect to any securities that, in the judgment of the department, cannot be sold, are worthless, or are not cost-effective to sell.

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

(c)(i) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (2)(c), a person making a claim under this chapter with respect to securities is only entitled to receive the proceeds received from sale, less any amounts deducted pursuant to RCW 63.29.230(2), even if the sale of the securities has not been completed at the time the department receives the claim. However, if the department receives a claim for securities and the department has not ordered those securities to be sold as of the time the claim is received by the department, the

claimant is entitled to receive either the securities delivered to the department by the holder, or the proceeds received from the sale, less any amounts deducted pursuant to RCW 63.29.230(2).

(ii) With respect to securities that, in the judgment of the department, cannot be sold or are not cost-effective to sell and that remain in the possession of the department, a person making a claim under this chapter is only entitled to receive the securities delivered to the department by the holder.

(d) No person has any claim under this chapter against the state, the holder, any transfer agent, registrar, or other person acting for or on behalf of a holder for or on account of any appreciation or depreciation in the value of the property occurring after delivery by the holder to the department.

(3) The purchaser of property at any sale conducted by the department pursuant to this chapter takes the property free of all claims of the owner or previous holder thereof and of all persons claiming through or under them. The department must execute all documents necessary to complete the transfer of ownership. [2011 2nd sp.s. c 8 § 1; 2005 c 367 § 4; 1996 c 45 § 3; 1993 c 498 § 10; 1983 c 179 § 22.]

Application—2011 2nd sp.s. c 8: "(1) Section 1(2)(a) of this act applies with respect to securities the department of revenue holds as of December 20, 2011, as well as securities delivered to the department of revenue after December 20, 2011.

(2) Section 1(2)(c)(i) of this act applies with respect to claims received by the department of revenue on or after December 20, 2011." [2011 2nd sp.s. c 8 § 3.]

Effective date—2011 2nd sp.s. c 8: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [December 20, 2011]." [2011 2nd sp.s. c 8 § 4.]

63.29.230 Deposit of funds. (1) Except as otherwise provided by this section, the department shall promptly deposit in the general fund of this state all funds received under this chapter, including the proceeds from the sale of abandoned property under RCW 63.29.220. The department shall retain in a separate trust fund an amount not less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars from which prompt payment of claims duly allowed must be made by the department. Before making the deposit, the department shall record the name and last known address of each person appearing from the holders' reports to be entitled to the property and the name and last known address of each insured person or annuitant and beneficiary and with respect to each policy or contract listed in the report of an insurance company its number, and the name of the company. The record must be available for public inspection at all reasonable business hours.

(2) The department of revenue may pay from the trust fund provided in subsection (1) of this section any costs of administering this chapter. [1983 c 179 § 23.]

63.29.240 Filing of claim with department. (1) A person, excluding another state, claiming an interest in any property paid or delivered to the department may file with it a claim on a form prescribed by it and verified by the claimant.

(2) The department must consider each claim within ninety days after it is filed and give written notice to the claimant if the claim is denied in whole or in part. The notice may be given by mailing it to the last address, if any, stated in the claim as the address to which notices are to be sent. If no

address for notices is stated in the claim, the notice may be mailed to the last address, if any, of the claimant as stated in the claim. No notice of denial need be given if the claim fails to state either the last address to which notices are to be sent or the address of the claimant.

(3)(a) If a claim is allowed, the department must pay over or deliver to the claimant the property or the amount the department actually received or the net proceeds if it has been sold by the department, together with any additional amount required by RCW 63.29.210. Nothing in this subsection (3)(a) may be construed to modify RCW 63.29.220(2)(c).

(b) If the property claimed was interest-bearing to the owner on the date of surrender by the holder, the department also must pay interest at the legal rate or any lesser rate the property earned while in the possession of the holder. Interest begins to accrue when the property is delivered to the department and ceases on the earlier of the expiration of ten years after delivery or the date on which payment is made to the owner. No interest on interest-bearing property is payable for any period before June 30, 1983.

(4) Any holder who pays the owner for property that has been delivered to the state and which, if claimed from the department, would be subject to subsection (3) of this section must add interest as provided in subsection (3) of this section. The added interest must be repaid to the holder by the department in the same manner as the principal. [2011 2nd sp.s. c 8 § 2; 1983 c 179 § 24.]

Effective date—2011 2nd sp.s. c 8: See note following RCW 63.29.220.

63.29.250 Claim of another state to recover property—Procedure. (1) At any time after property has been paid or delivered to the department under this chapter another state may recover the property if:

(a) The property was subjected to custody by this state because the records of the holder did not reflect the last known address of the apparent owner when the property was presumed abandoned under this chapter, and the other state establishes that the last known address of the apparent owner or other person entitled to the property was in that state and under the laws of that state the property escheated to or was subject to a claim of abandonment by that state;

(b) The last known address of the apparent owner or other person entitled to the property, as reflected by the records of the holder, is in the other state and under the laws of that state the property has escheated to or become subject to a claim of abandonment by that state;

(c) The records of the holder were erroneous in that they did not accurately reflect the actual owner of the property and the last known address of the actual owner is in the other state and under the laws of that state the property escheated to or was subject to a claim of abandonment by that state;

(d) The property was subjected to custody by this state under RCW 63.29.030(6) and under the laws of the state of domicile of the holder the property has escheated to or become subject to a claim of abandonment by that state; or

(e) The property is the sum payable on a travelers check, money order, or other similar instrument that was subjected to custody by this state under RCW 63.29.040, and the instrument was purchased in the other state, and under the laws of

that state the property escheated to or became subject to a claim of abandonment by that state.

(2) The claim of another state to recover escheated or abandoned property must be presented in a form prescribed by the department, who shall decide the claim within ninety days after it is presented. The department shall allow the claim if it determines that the other state is entitled to the abandoned property under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The department shall require a state, before recovering property under this section, to agree to indemnify this state and its officers and employees against any liability on a claim for the property. [1983 c 179 § 25.]

63.29.260 Action to establish claim. A person aggrieved by a decision of the department or whose claim has not been acted upon within ninety days after its filing may bring an action to establish the claim in the superior court of Thurston county naming the department as a defendant. The action must be brought within ninety days after the decision of the department or within one hundred eighty days after the filing of the claim if the department has failed to act on it. [1983 c 179 § 26.]

63.29.270 Election to take payment or delivery. (1) The department may decline to receive any property reported under this chapter which it considers to have a value less than the expense of giving notice and of sale. If the department elects not to receive custody of the property, the holder shall be notified within one hundred twenty days after filing the report required under RCW 63.29.170. The holder then may dispose of the property in such manner as it sees fit. No action or proceeding may be maintained against the holder for or on account of any action taken by the holder pursuant to this subsection with respect to the property.

(2) A holder, with the written consent of the department and upon conditions and terms prescribed by it, may report and deliver property before the property is presumed abandoned. Property delivered under this subsection must be held by the department and is not presumed abandoned until such time as it otherwise would be presumed abandoned under this chapter. [1983 c 179 § 27.]

63.29.280 Destruction or disposition of property having insubstantial commercial value—Immunity from liability. If the department determines after investigation that any property delivered under this chapter has insubstantial commercial value, the department may destroy or otherwise dispose of the property at any time. No action or proceeding may be maintained against the state or any officer or against the holder for or on account of any action taken by the department pursuant to this section. Original documents which the department has identified to be destroyed and which have legal significance or historical interest may be surrendered to the state historical museum or to the state library. [2005 c 367 § 5; 1983 c 179 § 28.]

63.29.290 Periods of limitation. (1) The expiration, after September 1, 1979, of any period of time specified by contract, statute, or court order, during which a claim for money or property can be made or during which an action or proceeding may be commenced or enforced to obtain pay-

ment of a claim for money or to recover property, does not prevent the money or property from being presumed abandoned or affect any duty to file a report or to pay or deliver abandoned property to the department as required by this chapter.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no action or proceeding may be commenced by the department with respect to any duty of a holder under this chapter more than six years after the duty arose.

(3) No action or proceeding may be commenced by the department with respect to any assessment under this chapter more than three years after the later of (a) the due date for payment of the assessment including any extension granted by the department or (b) thirty days after the final decision on any petition for review under RCW 63.29.193. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 2106; 1983 c 179 § 29.]

Effective dates—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6: See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

Application—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 §§ 2101, 2102, 2106, 2108, and 2110: See note following RCW 63.29.190.

63.29.300 Requests for reports and examination of records. (1) The department may require any person who has not filed a report to file a verified report stating whether or not the person is holding any unclaimed property reportable or deliverable under this chapter. Nothing in this chapter requires reporting of property which is not subject to payment or delivery.

(2) The department, at reasonable times and upon reasonable notice, may examine the records of any person to determine whether the person has complied with the provisions of this chapter. The department may conduct the examination even if the person believes it is not in possession of any property reportable or deliverable under this chapter.

(3) If a person is treated under RCW 63.29.120 as the holder of the property only insofar as the interest of the business association in the property is concerned, the department, pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, may examine the records of the person if the department has given the notice required by subsection (2) of this section to both the person and the business association at least ninety days before the examination.

(4) Material obtained by any person during any examination authorized under this chapter, or whether the holder was, is being, or will be examined or subject to an examination, is confidential information and may not be disclosed to any person except as provided in RCW 63.29.380.

(5) If an examination of the records of a person results in the disclosure of property reportable and payable or deliverable under this chapter, the department must assess against the person the amount that should have been reported and paid as determined or approved by the department. An assessment must also include a demand to deliver any property that should have been reported and delivered to the department under this chapter. The assessment must include interest and penalties as provided in RCW 63.29.340. The department may assess the cost of the examination against the holder at the rate of one hundred forty dollars a day for each examiner, but in no case may the charges exceed the lesser of three thousand dollars or the value of the property found to be reportable and payable or deliverable. No assess-

ment for costs may be imposed when the person proves that failure to report and deliver property was inadvertent. The cost of examination made pursuant to subsection (3) of this section may be imposed only against the business association.

(6) If a holder fails after June 30, 1983, to maintain the records required by RCW 63.29.310 and the records of the holder available for the periods subject to this chapter are insufficient to permit the preparation of a report, the department may assess such amounts as may reasonably be estimated from any available records.

(7)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, all amounts and property identified in any assessment issued by the department under this section must be paid or delivered to the department within thirty days of issuance.

(b) If a timely petition for review of an assessment is filed with the department as provided in RCW 63.29.193, only the uncontested amounts and property must be paid or delivered to the department within thirty days of the issuance of the assessment. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 2107; 1983 c 179 § 30.]

Effective dates—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6: See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

63.29.310 Retention of records. (1) Every holder required to file a report under RCW 63.29.170, as to any property for which it has obtained the last known address of the owner, shall maintain a record of the name and last known address of the owner for six years after the property becomes reportable, except to the extent that a shorter time is provided in subsection (2) of this section or by rule of the department.

(2) Any business association that sells in this state its travelers checks, money orders, or other similar written instruments, other than third-party bank checks on which the business association is directly liable, or that provides such instruments to others for sale in this state, shall maintain a record of those instruments while they remain outstanding, indicating the state and date of issue for three years after the date the property is reportable. [1983 c 179 § 31.]

63.29.320 Enforcement. The department may bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce this chapter. [1983 c 179 § 32.]

63.29.330 Interstate agreements and cooperation—Joint and reciprocal actions with other states. (1) The department may enter into agreements with other states to exchange information needed to enable this or another state to audit or otherwise determine unclaimed property that it or another state may be entitled to subject to a claim of custody. The department by rule may require the reporting of information needed to enable compliance with agreements made pursuant to this section and prescribe the form.

(2) To avoid conflicts between the department's procedures and the procedures of administrators in other jurisdictions that enact the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act, the department, so far as is consistent with the purposes, policies, and provisions of this chapter, before adopting, amending or repealing rules, shall advise and consult with administrators in other jurisdictions that enact substantially the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act and take into consideration the rules

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of administrators in other jurisdictions that enact the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act.

(3) The department may join with other states to seek enforcement of this chapter against any person who is or may be holding property reportable under this chapter.

(4) At the request of another state, the attorney general of this state may bring an action in the name of the administrator of the other state in any court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the unclaimed property laws of the other state against a holder in this state of property subject to escheat or a claim of abandonment by the other state, if the other state has agreed to pay expenses incurred by the attorney general in bringing the action.

(5) The department may request that the attorney general of another state or any other person bring an action in the name of the department in the other state. This state shall pay all expenses including attorney's fees in any action under this subsection. The department may agree to pay the person bringing the action attorney's fees based in whole or in part on a percentage of the value of any property recovered in the action. Any expenses paid pursuant to this subsection may not be deducted from the amount that is subject to the claim by the owner under this chapter. [1983 c 179 § 33.]

63.29.340 Interest and penalties. (1) A person who fails to pay or deliver property when due is required to pay to the department interest at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2) from the date the property should have been paid or delivered until the property is paid or delivered. However, the department must waive or cancel interest imposed under this subsection if:

(a) The department finds that the failure to pay or deliver the property within the time prescribed by this chapter was the result of circumstances beyond the person's control sufficient for waiver or cancellation of interest under RCW 82.32.105;

(b) The failure to timely pay or deliver the property within the time prescribed by this chapter was the direct result of written instructions given to the person by the department; or

(c) The extension of a due date for payment or delivery under an assessment issued by the department was not at the person's request and was for the sole convenience of the department.

(2) If a person fails to file any report or to pay or deliver any amounts or property when due under a report required under this chapter, there is assessed a penalty equal to ten percent of the amount unpaid and the value of any property not delivered.

(3) If an examination results in an assessment for amounts unpaid or property not delivered, there is assessed a penalty equal to ten percent of the amount unpaid and the value of any property not delivered.

(4) If a person fails to pay or deliver to the department by the due date any amounts or property due under an assessment issued by the department to the person, there is assessed an additional penalty of five percent of the amount unpaid and the value of any property not delivered.

(5) Penalties under subsections (2) through (4) of this section may be waived or canceled only if the department finds that the failure to pay or deliver within the time pre-

scribed by this chapter was the result of circumstances beyond the person's control sufficient for waiver or cancellation of penalties under RCW 82.32.105.

(6) If a person willfully fails to file a report or to provide written notice to apparent owners as required under this chapter, the department may assess a civil penalty of one hundred dollars for each day the report is withheld or the notice is not sent, but not more than five thousand dollars.

(7) If a holder, having filed a report, failed to file the report electronically as required by RCW 63.29.170, or failed to pay electronically any amounts due under the report as required by RCW 63.29.190, the department must assess a penalty equal to five percent of the amount payable or deliverable under the report, unless the department grants the taxpayer relief from the electronic filing and payment requirements. Total penalties assessed under this subsection may not exceed five percent of the amount payable and value of property deliverable under the report.

(8) The penalties imposed in this section are cumulative. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 2108; 2011 c 96 § 45. Prior: 1996 c 149 § 11; 1996 c 45 § 4; 1983 c 179 § 34.]

Contingent effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 2108: "(1) Section 2108 of this act takes effect July 1, 2016, unless the department of revenue determines that it is unable to efficiently and effectively implement any of the provisions of section 2108 of this act, in which case section 2108 of this act takes effect July 1, 2017.

(2) The department of revenue must provide written notice of the effective date of section 2108 of this act to the chief clerk of the house of representatives, the secretary of the senate, the office of the code reviser, and others as deemed appropriate by the department, as well as post notice of the effective date on its public web site. The notice must be provided no later than June 1, 2016." [2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 2307.] The department of revenue could not efficiently and effectively implement the provisions of section 2108, chapter 6, Laws of 2015 3rd sp.s. by July 1, 2016; therefore, per the contingent effective date, section 2108, chapter 6, Laws of 2015 3rd sp.s. takes effect July 1, 2017.

Application—2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 §§ 2101, 2102, 2106, 2108, and 2110: See note following RCW 63.29.190.

Findings—Intent—2011 c 96: See note following RCW 9A.20.021.

Findings—Intent—Effective date—1996 c 149: See notes following RCW 82.32.050.

63.29.350 Penalty for excessive fee for locating abandoned property—Consumer protection act application.

(1) It is unlawful for any person to seek or receive from any person or contract with any person for any fee or compensation for locating or purporting to locate any property which he or she knows has been reported or paid or delivered to the department of revenue pursuant to this chapter, or funds held by a county that are proceeds from a foreclosure for delinquent property taxes, assessments, or other liens, or, funds that are otherwise held by a county because of a person's failure to claim funds held as reimbursement for unowed taxes, fees, or other government charges, in excess of five percent of the value thereof returned to such owner. Any person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than the amount of the fee or charge he or she has sought or received or contracted for, and not more than ten times such amount, or imprisoned for not more than thirty days, or both.

(2) The legislature finds that the practices covered by this section are matters vitally affecting the public interest for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. Any violation of this section is not reasonable in

relation to the development and preservation of business. It is an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce and an unfair method of competition for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. Remedies provided by chapter 19.86 RCW are cumulative and not exclusive. [2012 c 117 § 181; 2010 c 29 § 2; 1983 c 179 § 35.]

63.29.360 Foreign transactions. This chapter does not apply to any property held, due, and owing in a foreign country and arising out of a foreign transaction. [1983 c 179 § 36.]

63.29.370 Rules. The department may adopt necessary rules in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW to carry out the provisions of this chapter. [1983 c 179 § 38.]

63.29.380 Information and records confidential. Any information or records required to be furnished to the department of revenue as provided in this chapter shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person except the person who furnished the same to the department of revenue, and except as provided in RCW 63.29.180 and 63.29.230, or as may be necessary in the proper administration of this chapter. [1983 c 179 § 39.]

63.29.900 Effect of new provisions—Clarification of application. (1) This chapter does not relieve a holder of a duty that arose before June 30, 1983, to report, pay, or deliver property. A holder who did not comply with the law in effect before June 30, 1983, is subject to the applicable enforcement and penalty provisions that then existed and they are continued in effect for the purpose of this subsection, subject to RCW 63.29.290(2).

(2) The initial report to be filed under this chapter shall include all property which is presumed abandoned under this chapter. The report shall include property that was not required to be reported before June 30, 1983, but which would have been presumed abandoned on or after September 1, 1979 under the terms of chapter 63.29 RCW.

(3) It shall be a defense to any action by the department that facts cannot be established because a holder, prior to January 1, 1983, destroyed or lost records or did not then keep records, if the destruction, loss, or failure to keep records did not violate laws existing at the time of the destruction, loss or failure. [1983 c 179 § 37.]

63.29.902 Uniformity of application and construction. This chapter shall be applied and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law with respect to the subject of this chapter among states enacting it. [1983 c 179 § 41.]

63.29.903 Short title. This chapter may be cited as the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act of 1983. [1983 c 179 § 42.]

63.29.905 Effective date—1983 c 179. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect June 30, 1983. [1983 c 179 § 47.]

63.29.906 Effective date—1996 c 45. This act shall take effect July 1, 1996. [1996 c 45 § 5.]

Chapter 63.32 RCW

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY IN HANDS OF CITY POLICE

Sections

63.32.010	Methods of disposition—Notice—Sale, retention, destruction, or trade.
63.32.020	Notice of sale.
63.32.030	Disposition of proceeds.
63.32.040	Reimbursement to owner.
63.32.050	Donation of unclaimed personal property to nonprofit charitable organizations.
63.32.060	Duties of police department or designated alternate entity accepting found property.

63.32.010 Methods of disposition—Notice—Sale, retention, destruction, or trade. Whenever any personal property shall come into the possession of the police authorities of any city in connection with the official performance of their duties and said personal property shall remain unclaimed or not taken away for a period of sixty days from date of written notice to the owner thereof, if known, which notice shall inform the owner of the disposition which may be made of the property under this section and the time that the owner has to claim the property and in all other cases for a period of sixty days from the time said property came into the possession of the police department, unless said property has been held as evidence in any court, then, in that event, after sixty days from date when said case has been finally disposed of and said property released as evidence by order of the court, said city may:

(1) At any time thereafter sell said personal property at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash in the manner hereinafter provided;

(2) Retain the property for the use of the police department subject to giving notice in the manner prescribed in RCW 63.32.020 and the right of the owner, or the owner's legal representative, to reclaim the property within one year after receipt of notice, without compensation for ordinary wear and tear if, in the opinion of the chief of police, the property consists of firearms or other items specifically usable in law enforcement work: PROVIDED, That at the end of each calendar year during which there has been such a retention, the police department shall provide the city's mayor or council and retain for public inspection a list of such retained items and an estimation of each item's replacement value. At the end of the one-year period any unclaimed firearm shall be disposed of pursuant to RCW 9.41.098(2);

(3) Destroy an item of personal property at the discretion of the chief of police if the chief of police determines that the following circumstances have occurred:

(a) The property has no substantial commercial value, or the probable cost of sale exceeds the value of the property;

(b) The item has been unclaimed by any person after notice procedures have been met, as prescribed in this section; and

(c) The chief of police has determined that the item is unsafe and unable to be made safe for use by any member of the general public;

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(4) If the item is not unsafe or illegal to possess or sell, such item, after satisfying the notice requirements as prescribed in RCW 63.32.020, may be offered by the chief of police to bona fide dealers, in trade for law enforcement equipment, which equipment shall be treated as retained property for purpose of annual listing requirements of subsection (2) of this section; or

(5) If the item is not unsafe or illegal to possess or sell, but has been, or may be used, in the judgment of the chief of police, in a manner that is illegal, such item may be destroyed. [1988 c 223 § 3; 1988 c 132 § 1; 1981 c 154 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 44 § 1; 1939 c 148 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 100 § 1; RRS § 8999-1.]

Reviser's note: This section was amended by 1988 c 132 § 1 and by 1988 c 223 § 3, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

63.32.020 Notice of sale. Before said personal property shall be sold, a notice of such sale fixing the time and place thereof which shall be at a suitable place, which will be noted in the advertisement for sale, and containing a description of the property to be sold shall be published at least once in the official newspaper of said city at least ten days prior to the date fixed for said sale. The notice shall be signed by the chief or other head of the police department of such city. If the owner fails to reclaim said property prior to the time fixed for the sale in such notice, the chief or other head of the police department shall conduct said sale and sell the property described in the notice at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash, and upon payment of the amount of such bid shall deliver the said property to such bidder. [1988 c 132 § 2; 1925 ex.s. c 100 § 2; RRS § 8999-2.]

63.32.030 Disposition of proceeds. The moneys arising from sales under the provisions of this chapter shall be first applied to the payment of the costs and expenses of the sale and then to the payment of lawful charges and expenses for the keep of said personal property and the balance, if any, shall be paid into the police pension fund of said city if such fund exists; otherwise into the city current expense fund. [1939 c 148 § 2; 1925 ex.s. c 100 § 3; RRS § 8999-3.]

63.32.040 Reimbursement to owner. If the owner of said personal property so sold, or his or her legal representative, shall, at any time within three years after such money shall have been deposited in said police pension fund or the city current expense fund, furnish satisfactory evidence to the police pension fund board or the city treasurer of said city of the ownership of said personal property, he or she shall be entitled to receive from said police pension fund or city current expense fund the amount so deposited therein with interest. [2012 c 117 § 182; 1939 c 148 § 3; 1925 ex.s. c 100 § 4; RRS § 899-4.]

63.32.050 Donation of unclaimed personal property to nonprofit charitable organizations. In addition to any other method of disposition of unclaimed property provided under this chapter, the police authorities of a city or town may donate unclaimed personal property to nonprofit charitable organizations. A nonprofit charitable organization receiving

personal property donated under this section must use the property, or its proceeds, to benefit needy persons. Such organization must qualify for tax-exempt status under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code. [2007 c 219 § 1; 1987 c 182 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.32.060 Duties of police department or designated alternate entity accepting found property. (1) This chapter does not modify the requirements for a police department to accept found property under chapter 63.21 RCW.

(2) If a city or town designates an alternate department or governmental entity to accept found property under RCW 63.21.090:

(a) The designated department or governmental entity shall comply with the retention and disposition requirements under this chapter in the same manner as would be required of a police department; and

(b) The police department is not required to accept found property from a finder of said property, unless the property is any of the following: A bank card; charge or credit card; cash; government-issued document, financial document, or legal document; firearm; evidence in a judicial or other official proceeding; or an item that is not legal for the finder to possess. Such found property accepted by a police department must be retained or disposed of in accordance with this chapter and other applicable state laws. [2020 c 26 § 16.]

Intent—2020 c 26: See note following RCW 63.21.090.

Chapter 63.35 RCW

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY IN HANDS OF STATE PATROL

Sections

63.35.010	Definitions.
63.35.020	Methods of disposition—Sale, retention, destruction, or trade.
63.35.030	Notice of sale.
63.35.040	Disposition of proceeds.
63.35.050	Reimbursement to owner.
63.35.060	Applicability of other statutes.
63.35.065	Donation of unclaimed personal property to nonprofit charitable organizations.

63.35.010 Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Agency" means the Washington state patrol.

(2) "Chief" means the chief of the Washington state patrol or designee.

(3) "Personal property" or "property" includes both corporeal and incorporeal personal property and includes, among other property, contraband and money.

(4) "Contraband" means any property which is unlawful to produce or possess.

(5) "Money" means all currency, script, personal checks, money orders, or other negotiable instruments.

(6) "Owner" means the person in whom is vested the ownership, dominion, or title of the property.

(7) "Unclaimed" means that no owner of the property has been identified or has requested, in writing, the release of the property to themselves nor has the owner of the property des-

igned an individual to receive the property or paid the required postage to effect delivery of the property.

(8) "Illegal items" means those items unlawful to be possessed. [1989 c 222 § 1.]

63.35.020 Methods of disposition—Sale, retention, destruction, or trade. Whenever any personal property shall come into the possession of the officers of the state patrol in connection with the official performance of their duties and said personal property shall remain unclaimed or not taken away for a period of sixty days from the date of written notice to the owner thereof, if known, which notice shall inform the owner of the disposition which may be made of the property under this section and the time that the owner has to claim the property and in all other cases for a period of sixty days from the time said property came into the possession of the state agency, unless said property has been held as evidence in any court, then, in that event, after sixty days from date when said case has been finally disposed of and said property released as evidence by order of the court, said agency may:

(1) At any time thereafter sell said personal property at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash in the manner hereinafter provided;

(2) Retain the property for the use of the state patrol subject to giving notice in the manner prescribed in RCW 63.35.030 and the right of the owner, or the owner's legal representative, to reclaim the property within one year after receipt of notice, without compensation for ordinary wear and tear if, in the opinion of the chief, the property consists of firearms or other items specifically usable in law enforcement work: PROVIDED, That at the end of each calendar year during which there has been such a retention, the state patrol shall provide the office of financial management and retain for public inspection a list of such retained items and an estimation of each item's replacement value;

(3) Destroy an item of personal property at the discretion of the chief if the chief determines that the following circumstances have occurred:

(a) The property has no substantial commercial value, or the probable cost of sale exceeds the value of the property;

(b) The item has been unclaimed by any person after notice procedures have been met, as prescribed in this section; and

(c) The chief has determined that the item is illegal to possess or sell or unsafe and unable to be made safe for use by any member of the general public;

(4) If the item is not unsafe or illegal to possess or sell, such item, after satisfying the notice requirements as prescribed in this section may be offered by the chief to bona fide dealers, in trade for law enforcement equipment, which equipment shall be treated as retained property for purpose of annual listing requirements of subsection (2) of this section; or

(5) At the end of one year, any unclaimed firearm shall be disposed of pursuant to RCW 9.41.098(2). Any other item which is not unsafe or illegal to possess or sell, but has been, or may be used, in the judgment of the chief, in a manner that is illegal, may be destroyed. [1989 c 222 § 2.]

63.35.030 Notice of sale. Before said personal property shall be sold, a notice of such sale fixing the time and place thereof which shall be at a suitable place, which will be noted in the advertisement for sale, and containing a description of the property to be sold shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the property is to be sold at least ten days prior to the date fixed for the auction. The notice shall be signed by the chief. If the owner fails to reclaim said property prior to the time fixed for the sale in such notice, the chief shall conduct said sale and sell the property described in the notice at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash, and upon payment of the amount of such bid shall deliver the said property to such bidder. [1989 c 222 § 3.]

63.35.040 Disposition of proceeds. The moneys arising from sales under the provisions of this chapter shall be first applied to the payment of the costs and expenses of the sale and then to the payment of lawful charges and expenses for the keep of said personal property and the balance, if any, shall be forwarded to the state treasurer to be deposited into the state patrol highway account. [1989 c 222 § 4.]

63.35.050 Reimbursement to owner. If the owner of said personal property so sold, or the owner's legal representative, shall, at any time within three years after such money shall have been deposited in the state patrol highway account, furnish satisfactory evidence to the state treasurer of the ownership of said personal property, the owner or the owner's legal representative shall be entitled to receive from said state patrol highway account the amount so deposited therein with interest. [1989 c 222 § 5.]

63.35.060 Applicability of other statutes. (1) Chapter 63.24 RCW, unclaimed property in hands of bailee, does not apply to personal property in the possession of the state patrol.

(2) The uniform unclaimed property act, chapter 63.29 RCW, does not apply to personal property in the possession of the state patrol. [1989 c 222 § 6.]

63.35.065 Donation of unclaimed personal property to nonprofit charitable organizations. In addition to any other method of disposition of unclaimed property provided under this chapter, the state patrol may donate unclaimed personal property to nonprofit charitable organizations. A nonprofit charitable organization receiving personal property donated under this section must use the property, or its proceeds, to benefit needy persons. Such organization must qualify for tax-exempt status under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code. [2007 c 219 § 2.]

Chapter 63.40 RCW

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY IN HANDS OF SHERIFF

Sections

63.40.010	Methods of disposition—Notice—Sale, retention, destruction, or trade.
63.40.020	Notice of sale, form, contents—Conduct of sale.
63.40.030	Disposition of proceeds.
63.40.040	Reimbursement to owner.
63.40.050	Uniform unclaimed property act not applicable.

63.40.060	Donation of unclaimed personal property to nonprofit charitable organizations.
63.40.070	Duties of sheriff or designated alternate entity accepting found property.

63.40.010 Methods of disposition—Notice—Sale, retention, destruction, or trade. Whenever any personal property, other than vehicles governed by chapter 46.52 RCW, shall come into the possession of the sheriff of any county in connection with the official performance of his duties and said personal property shall remain unclaimed or not taken away for a period of sixty days from date of written notice to the owner thereof, if known, which notice shall inform the owner of the disposition which may be made of the property under this section and the time that the owner has to claim the property and in all other cases for a period of sixty days from the time said property came into the possession of the sheriff's office, unless said property has been held as evidence in any court, then, in that event, after sixty days from date when said case has been finally disposed of and said property released as evidence by order of the court, said county sheriff may:

(1) At any time thereafter sell said personal property at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash in the manner hereinafter provided;

(2) Retain the property for the use of the sheriff's office subject to giving notice in the manner prescribed in RCW 63.40.020 and the right of the owner, or his or her legal representative, to reclaim the property within one year after the receipt of notice, without compensation for ordinary wear and tear if, in the opinion of the county sheriff, the property consists of firearms or other items specifically usable in law enforcement work: PROVIDED, That at the end of each calendar year during which there has been such a retention, the sheriff shall provide the county's executive or legislative authority and retain for public inspection a list of such retained items and an estimation of each item's replacement value. At the end of the one-year period any unclaimed firearm shall be disposed of pursuant to RCW 9.41.098(2);

(3) Destroy an item of personal property at the discretion of the county sheriff if the county sheriff determines that the following circumstances have occurred:

(a) The property has no substantial commercial value, or the probable cost of sale exceeds the value of the property;

(b) The item has been unclaimed by any person after notice procedures have been met, as prescribed in this section; and

(c) The county sheriff has determined that the item is unsafe and unable to be made safe for use by any member of the general public;

(4) If the item is not unsafe or illegal to possess or sell, such item, after satisfying the notice requirements as prescribed in RCW 63.40.020, may be offered by the county sheriff to bona fide dealers, in trade for law enforcement equipment, which equipment shall be treated as retained property for purpose of annual listing requirements of subsection (2) of this section; or

(5) If the item is not unsafe or illegal to possess or sell, but has been, or may be used, in the discretion of the county sheriff, in a manner that is illegal, such item may be destroyed. [1988 c 223 § 4; 1988 c 132 § 3; 1981 c 154 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 44 § 4; 1961 c 104 § 1.]

Reviser's note: This section was amended by 1988 c 132 § 3 and by 1988 c 223 § 4, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

63.40.020 Notice of sale, form, contents—Conduct of sale. Before said personal property shall be sold, a notice of such sale fixing the time and place thereof which shall be at a suitable place, which will be noted in the advertisement for sale, and containing a description of the property to be sold shall be published at least once in an official newspaper in said county at least ten days prior to the date fixed for said sale. The notice shall be signed by the sheriff or his or her deputy. If the owner fails to reclaim said property prior to the time fixed for the sale in such notice, the sheriff or his or her deputy shall conduct said sale and sell the property described in the notice at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash, and upon payment of the amount of such bid shall deliver the said property to such bidder. [2012 c 117 § 183; 1988 c 132 § 4; 1961 c 104 § 2.]

63.40.030 Disposition of proceeds. The moneys arising from sales under the provisions of this chapter shall be first applied to the payment of the costs and expenses of the sale and then to the payment of lawful charges and expenses for the keeping of said personal property and the balance, if any, shall be paid into the county current expense fund. [1961 c 104 § 3.]

63.40.040 Reimbursement to owner. If the owner of said personal property so sold, or his or her legal representative, shall, at any time within three years after such money shall have been deposited in the county current expense fund, furnish satisfactory evidence to the county treasurer of said county of the ownership of said personal property, he or she shall be entitled to receive from said county current expense fund the amount so deposited therein. [2012 c 117 § 184; 1961 c 104 § 4.]

63.40.050 Uniform unclaimed property act not applicable. The provisions of chapter 63.29 RCW shall not apply to personal property in the possession of the office of county sheriff. [1985 c 7 § 126; 1961 c 104 § 5.]

63.40.060 Donation of unclaimed personal property to nonprofit charitable organizations. In addition to any other method of disposition of unclaimed property provided under this chapter, the county sheriff may donate unclaimed personal property to nonprofit charitable organizations. A nonprofit charitable organization receiving personal property donated under this section must use the property, or its proceeds, to benefit needy persons. Such organization must qualify for tax-exempt status under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code. [2007 c 219 § 3; 1987 c 182 § 2.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.40.070 Duties of sheriff or designated alternate entity accepting found property. (1) This chapter does not modify the requirements for a sheriff to accept found property under chapter 63.21 RCW.

(2) If a county designates an alternate department or governmental entity to accept found property under RCW 63.21.090:

(a) The designated department or governmental entity shall comply with the disposition requirements under this chapter in the same manner as would be required of the sheriff; and

(b) The sheriff is not required to accept found property from a finder of said property, unless the property is any of the following: A bank card; charge or credit card; cash; government-issued document, financial document, or legal document; firearm; evidence in a judicial or other official proceeding; or an item that is not legal for the finder to possess. Such found property accepted by a sheriff must be retained or disposed of in accordance with this chapter and other applicable state laws. [2020 c 26 § 17.]

Intent—2020 c 26: See note following RCW 63.21.090.

Chapter 63.42 RCW

UNCLAIMED INMATE PERSONAL PROPERTY

Sections

63.42.010	Legislative intent.
63.42.020	Definitions.
63.42.030	Personal property presumed abandoned—Illegal items retained as evidence or destroyed.
63.42.040	Disposition of property presumed abandoned—Inventory—Notice.
63.42.050	Chapter not applicable if prior written agreement.
63.42.060	Application of chapters 63.24 and 63.29 RCW.

63.42.010 Legislative intent. It is the intent of the legislature to relieve the department of corrections from unacceptable burdens of cost related to storage space and manpower in the preservation of inmate personal property if the property has been abandoned by the inmate and to enhance the security and safety of the institutions. [1983 1st ex.s. c 52 § 1.]

63.42.020 Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of corrections or the secretary's designees.

(2) "Personal property" or "property" includes both corporeal and incorporeal personal property and includes among others contraband and money.

(3) "Contraband" means all personal property including, but not limited to, alcoholic beverages and other items which a resident of a correctional institution may not have in the resident's possession, as defined in rules adopted by the secretary.

(4) "Money" means all currency, script, personal checks, money orders, or other negotiable instruments.

(5) "Owner" means the inmate, the inmate's legal representative, or any person claiming through or under the inmate entitled to title and possession of the property.

(6) "Unclaimed" means that no owner of the property has been identified or has requested, in writing, the release of the property to themselves nor has the owner of the property designated an individual to receive the property or paid the required postage to effect delivery of the property.

(7) "Inmate" means a person committed to the custody of the department of corrections or transferred from other states or the federal government.

(8) "Institutions" means those facilities set forth in RCW 72.01.050(2) and all community residential programs under the department's jurisdiction operated pursuant to chapter 72.65 RCW.

(9) "Department" means the department of corrections.

(10) "Illegal items" means those items unlawful to be possessed.

(11) "Nonprofit" has the meaning prescribed by state or federal law or rules. [1983 1st ex.s. c 52 § 2.]

63.42.030 Personal property presumed abandoned—Illegal items retained as evidence or destroyed. (1) All personal property, and any income or increment which has accrued thereon, held for the owner by an institution that has remained unclaimed for more than six months from the date the owner terminated without authorization from work training release, transferred to a different institution, or when the owner is unknown or deceased, from the date the property was placed in the custody of the institution, is presumed abandoned: PROVIDED, That the provisions of this section shall be extended for up to six months for any inmate, transferred to another institution, who has no recorded next of kin, or person to whom the unclaimed property can be sent.

(2) All personal property, and any income or increment which has accrued thereon, the inmate owner of which has been placed on escape status is presumed abandoned and shall be held for three months by the institution from which the inmate escaped. If the inmate owner remains on escape status for three months or if no other person claims ownership within three months, the property shall be disposed of as set forth in this chapter.

(3) All illegal items owned by and in the possession of an inmate shall be confiscated and held by the institution to which the inmate is assigned. Such items shall be held as required for evidence for law enforcement authorities. Illegal items not retained for evidence shall be destroyed. [1983 1st ex.s. c 52 § 3.]

Property of deceased inmates: RCW 11.08.101, 11.08.111, and 11.08.120.

63.42.040 Disposition of property presumed abandoned—Inventory—Notice. (1) All personal property, other than money, presumed abandoned shall be destroyed unless, in the opinion of the secretary, the property may be used or has value to a charitable or nonprofit organization, in which case the property may be donated to the organization. A charitable or nonprofit organization does not have a claim nor shall the department or any employee thereof be held liable to any charitable or nonprofit organization for property which is destroyed rather than donated or for the donation of property to another charitable or nonprofit organization.

(2) Money presumed abandoned under this chapter shall be paid into the revolving fund set up in accordance with RCW 9.95.360.

(3) The department shall inventory all personal property prior to its destruction or donation.

(4) Before personal property is donated or destroyed, if the name and address of the owner thereof is known or if deceased, the address of the heirs as known, at least thirty

days' notice of the donation or destruction of the personal property shall be given to the owner at the owner's residence or place of business or to some person of suitable age and discretion residing or employed therein. If the name or residence of the owner or the owner's heirs is not known, a notice of the action fixing the time and place thereof shall be published at least once in an official newspaper in the county at least thirty days prior to the date fixed for the action. The notice shall be signed by the secretary. The notice need not contain a description of property, but shall contain a general statement that the property is unclaimed personal property of inmates, specifying the institution at which the property is held. If the owner fails to reclaim the property prior to the time fixed in the notice, the property shall be donated or destroyed. [1983 1st ex.s. c 52 § 4.]

Property of deceased inmates: RCW 11.08.101, 11.08.111, and 11.08.120.

63.42.050 Chapter not applicable if prior written agreement. This chapter does not apply if the inmate and the department have reached an agreement in writing regarding the disposition of the personal property. [1983 1st ex.s. c 52 § 5.]

63.42.060 Application of chapters 63.24 and 63.29 RCW. (1) The uniform unclaimed property act, chapter 63.29 RCW, does not apply to personal property in the possession of the department of corrections.

(2) Chapter 63.24 RCW, unclaimed property in hands of bailee, does not apply to personal property in the possession of the department of corrections. [1985 c 7 § 127; 1983 1st ex.s. c 52 § 6.]

Chapter 63.48 RCW

ESCHEAT OF POSTAL SAVINGS SYSTEM ACCOUNTS

Sections

63.48.010	Accounts presumed abandoned and to escheat to state.
63.48.020	Director to request federal records.
63.48.030	Escheat proceedings brought in Thurston county.
63.48.040	Notice to depositors whose accounts are to be escheated.
63.48.050	Copy of judgment presented for payment—Disposition of proceeds.
63.48.060	Indemnification for losses as result of escheat proceedings—Source.

63.48.010 Accounts presumed abandoned and to escheat to state. All postal savings system accounts created by the deposits of persons whose last known addresses are in the state which have not been claimed by the persons entitled thereto before May 1, 1971, are presumed to have been abandoned by their owners and are declared to escheat and become the property of this state. [1971 ex.s. c 68 § 1.]

63.48.020 Director to request federal records. The director of revenue shall request from the bureau of accounts of the United States treasury department records providing the following information: The names of depositors at the post offices of this state whose accounts are unclaimed, their last addresses as shown by the records of the post office department, and the balance in each account. He or she shall agree to return to the bureau of accounts promptly all account

cards showing last addresses in another state. [2012 c 117 § 185; 1971 ex.s. c 68 § 2.]

63.48.030 Escheat proceedings brought in Thurston county. The director of revenue may bring proceedings in the superior court for Thurston county to escheat unclaimed postal savings system accounts held by the United States treasury. A single proceeding may be used to escheat as many accounts as may be available for escheat at one time. [1971 ex.s. c 68 § 3.]

63.48.040 Notice to depositors whose accounts are to be escheated. The director of revenue shall notify depositors whose accounts are to be escheated as follows:

(1) A letter advising that a postal savings system account in the name of the addressee is about to be escheated and setting forth the procedure by which a deposit may be claimed shall be mailed by first-class mail to the named depositor at the last address shown on the account records for each account to be escheated having an unpaid principal balance of more than twenty-five dollars.

(2) A general notice of intention to escheat postal savings system accounts shall be published once in each of three successive weeks in one or more newspapers which combine to provide general circulation throughout this state.

(3) A special notice of intention to escheat the unclaimed postal savings system accounts originally deposited in each post office must be published once in each of three successive weeks in a newspaper published in the county in which the post office is located or, if there is none, in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. This notice must list the names of the owners of each unclaimed account to be escheated having a principal balance of three dollars or more. [1971 ex.s. c 68 § 4.]

63.48.050 Copy of judgment presented for payment—Disposition of proceeds. The director of revenue shall present a copy of each final judgment of escheat to the United States treasury department for payment of the principal due and the interest computed under regulations of the United States treasury department. The payment received shall be deposited in the general fund in the state treasury. [1971 ex.s. c 68 § 5.]

63.48.060 Indemnification for losses as result of escheat proceedings—Source. This state shall indemnify the United States for any losses suffered as a result of the escheat of unclaimed postal savings system accounts. The burden of the indemnification falls upon the fund into which the proceeds of the escheated accounts have been paid. [1971 ex.s. c 68 § 6.]

Chapter 63.52 RCW

DIES, MOLDS, AND FORMS

Sections

- 63.52.005 Definitions.
63.52.010 Customer has title and all rights—Written exception—Failure to claim within three years after the last use—Notice to customer—Title and all rights may transfer to the molder.

63.52.005 Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Customer" means an individual or entity that causes or did cause a molder to fabricate, cast, or otherwise make a die, mold, or form.

(2) "Molder" means an individual or entity, including but not limited to a tool or die maker, that fabricates, casts, or otherwise makes a die, mold, or form.

(3) "Within three years after the last use" means the three-year period after the last use of a die, mold, or form, regardless of whether or not any portion of that period pre-dates June 6, 1996. [1996 c 235 § 1.]

63.52.010 Customer has title and all rights—Written exception—Failure to claim within three years after the last use—Notice to customer—Title and all rights may transfer to the molder. (1) In the absence of a written agreement otherwise, the customer has title and all rights to a die, mold, or form in the molder's possession.

(2) If a customer does not claim possession from a molder of a die, mold, or form within three years after the last use of the die, mold, or form, title and all rights to the die, mold, or form may be transferred to the molder for the purpose of destroying or otherwise disposing of the die, mold, or form.

(3) At least one hundred twenty days before seeking title and rights to a die, mold, or form in its possession, a molder shall send notice, via registered or certified mail, to the chief executive officer of the customer or, if the customer is not a business entity, to the customer's last known address. The notice must state that the molder intends to seek title and rights to the die, mold, or form. The notice must also include the name, address, and phone number of the molder.

(4) If a customer does not respond in person or by mail within one hundred twenty days after the date the notice was sent, or does not make other contractual arrangements with the molder for storage of the die, mold, or form, title and all rights of the customer transfer by operation of law to the molder. Thereafter, the molder may destroy or otherwise dispose of the die, mold, or form without any risk of liability to the customer. [1996 c 235 § 2.]

Chapter 63.60 RCW

PERSONALITY RIGHTS

Sections

- 63.60.010 Property right—Use of name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness.
63.60.020 Definitions.
63.60.030 Transfer, assignment, and license.
63.60.040 Right is exclusive for individuals and personalities.
63.60.050 Infringement of right—Use without consent—Profit or not for profit.
63.60.060 Infringement of right—Superior courts—Injunctions—Liability for damages and profits—Impoundment—Destruction—Attorneys' fees.
63.60.070 Exemptions from use restrictions—When chapter does not apply.
63.60.080 Community property rights.

63.60.010 Property right—Use of name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness. Every individual or personality has a property right in the use of his or her name, voice,

signature, photograph, or likeness. Such right exists in the name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness of individuals or personalities deceased before, on, or after June 11, 1998. This right shall be freely transferable, assignable, and licensable, in whole or in part, by any otherwise permissible form of inter vivos or testamentary transfer, including without limitation a will or other testamentary instrument, trust, contract, community property agreement, or cotenancy with survivorship provisions or payable-on-death provisions, whether the will or other testamentary instrument, trust, contract, community property agreement, or cotenancy document is entered into or executed before, on, or after June 11, 1998, by the deceased individual or personality or by any subsequent owner of the deceased individual's or personality's rights as recognized by this chapter; or, if none is applicable, then the owner of the rights shall be determined under the laws of intestate succession applicable to interests in intangible personal property. The property right does not expire upon the death of the individual or personality, regardless of whether the law of the domicile, residence, or citizenship of the individual or personality at the time of death or otherwise recognizes a similar or identical property right. The right exists whether or not it was commercially exploited by the individual or the personality during the individual's or the personality's lifetime. The rights recognized under this chapter shall be deemed to have existed before June 11, 1998, and at the time of death of any deceased individual or personality or subsequent successor of their rights for the purpose of determining the person or persons entitled to these property rights as provided in RCW 63.60.030. This chapter is intended to apply to all individuals and personalities, living and deceased, regardless of place of domicile or place of domicile at time of death. [2008 c 62 § 1; 1998 c 274 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.60.020 Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Deceased individual" means any individual, regardless of the individual's place of domicile, residence, or citizenship at the time of death or otherwise, who has died within ten years before January 1, 1998, or thereafter.

(2) "Deceased personality" means any individual, regardless of the personality's place of domicile, residence, or citizenship at the time of death or otherwise, whose name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness had commercial value at the time of his or her death, whether or not during the lifetime of that individual he or she used his or her name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness on or in products, merchandise or goods, or for purposes of advertising or selling, or soliciting the purchase or sale of, products, merchandise, goods, or services. A "deceased personality" includes, without limitation, any such individual who has died within fifty years before January 1, 1998, or thereafter.

(3) "Fund-raising" means an organized activity to solicit donations of money or other goods or services from persons or entities by an organization, company, or public entity. A fund-raising activity does not include a live, public performance by an individual or group of individuals for which money is received in solicited or unsolicited gratuities.

(4) "Individual" means a natural person, living or dead.

(5) "Likeness" means an image, painting, sketching, model, diagram, or other clear representation, other than a photograph, of an individual's face, body, or parts thereof, or the distinctive appearance, gestures, or mannerisms of an individual.

(6) "Name" means the actual or assumed name, or nickname, of a living or deceased individual that is intended to identify that individual.

(7) "Person" means any natural person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, joint stock company, syndicate, receiver, common law trust, conservator, statutory trust, or any other concern by whatever name known or however organized, formed, or created, and includes not-for-profit corporations, associations, educational and religious institutions, political parties, and community, civic, or other organizations.

(8) "Personality" means any individual whose name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness has commercial value, whether or not that individual uses his or her name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness on or in products, merchandise, or goods, or for purposes of advertising or selling, or solicitation of purchase of, products, merchandise, goods, or services.

(9) "Photograph" means any photograph or photographic reproduction, still or moving, or any videotape, online or live television transmission, of any individual, so that the individual is readily identifiable.

(10) "Signature" means the one handwritten or otherwise legally binding form of an individual's name, written or authorized by that individual, that distinguishes the individual from all others. [2008 c 62 § 2; 2004 c 71 § 1; 1998 c 274 § 2.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.60.030 Transfer, assignment, and license. (1) Every individual or personality has a property right in the use of his or her name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness. Such right shall be freely transferable, assignable, and licensable, in whole or in part, by contract or inter vivos transfer. This right shall not expire upon the death of the individual or personality, but shall be owned and enforceable by the following successors, heirs, or other transferees of living or deceased individuals or personalities:

(a) Except where such rights were transferred or assigned before such deceased personality's death by means of any contract or trust instrument, the right shall be owned by the person entitled to such rights under the deceased individual's or personality's last will and testament or, if none, then by the beneficiaries or heirs under the laws of intestate succession applicable to interests in intangible personal property generally of the individual's or personality's domicile, regardless of whether the law of the domicile of the deceased individual or personality, at the time of death, or thereafter, recognizes a similar or identical property right; or

(b) If the deceased individual or personality transferred or assigned any interest in the personality rights during his or her life by means of any contract or trust instrument, then the transferred or assigned interest shall be held as follows:

(i) If the transferred or assigned interest was held in trust, in accordance with the terms of the trust;

(ii) If the interest is subject to a cotenancy with any survivorship provisions or payable-on-death provisions, in accordance with those provisions;

(iii) If the interest is subject to any contract, including without limitation an exclusive license, assignment, or a community property agreement, in accordance with the terms of the applicable contract or contracts;

(iv) If the interest has been transferred or assigned to a third person in a form that is not addressed in this section, by the individual or personality, or the successor, heir, or other transferee of the living or deceased individual or personality, then the interest may be transferred, assigned, or licensed by such third person, in whole or in part, by any otherwise permissible form of inter vivos or testamentary transfer or, if none is applicable, under the laws of intestate succession applicable to interests in intangible personal property of the third person's domicile, regardless of whether the law of the domicile of the deceased third party, at the time of death, or thereafter, recognizes a similar or identical property right.

(2) A property right exists whether or not such rights were commercially exploited by or under the authority of the individual or the personality or the individual's or personality's successors or transferees during the individual's or the personality's lifetime.

(3) The rights recognized under this chapter shall be deemed to have existed before June 11, 1998, and at the time of death of any deceased individual or personality or subsequent successor of their rights for the purpose of determining the person or persons entitled to these property rights as provided in this section. [2008 c 62 § 3; 1998 c 274 § 3.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

63.60.040 Right is exclusive for individuals and personalities. (1) For individuals, except to the extent that the individual may have assigned or licensed such rights, the rights protected in this chapter are exclusive to the individual, subject to the assignment or licensing of such rights, during such individual's lifetime and are exclusive to the persons entitled to such rights under RCW 63.60.030 for a period of ten years after the death of the individual except to the extent that the persons entitled to such rights under RCW 63.60.030 may have assigned or licensed such rights to others.

(2) For personalities, except to the extent that the personality may have assigned or licensed such rights, the rights protected in this chapter are exclusive to the personality, subject to the assignment or licensing of such rights, during such personality's lifetime and to the persons entitled to such rights under RCW 63.60.030 for a period of seventy-five years after the death of the personality except to the extent that the persons entitled to such rights under RCW 63.60.030 may have assigned or licensed such rights to others.

(3) The rights granted in this chapter may be exercised by a personal representative, attorney-in-fact, parent of a minor child, or guardian, or as authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction. The terms "personal representative," "attorney-in-fact," and "guardian" shall have the same meanings in this chapter as they have in Title 11 RCW. [2004 c 71 § 2; 1998 c 274 § 4.]

63.60.050 Infringement of right—Use without consent—Profit or not for profit. Any person who uses or

authorizes the use of a living or deceased individual's or personality's name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness, on or in goods, merchandise, or products entered into commerce in this state, or for purposes of advertising products, merchandise, goods, or services, or for purposes of fund-raising or solicitation of donations, or if any person disseminates or publishes such advertisements in this state, without written or oral, express or implied consent of the owner of the right, has infringed such right. An infringement may occur under this section without regard to whether the use or activity is for profit or not for profit. [1998 c 274 § 5.]

63.60.060 Infringement of right—Superior courts—Injunctions—Liability for damages and profits—Impoundment—Destruction—Attorneys' fees. (1) The superior courts of this state may grant injunctions on reasonable terms to prevent or restrain the unauthorized use of the rights in a living or deceased individual's or personality's name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness.

(2) Any person who infringes the rights under this chapter shall be liable for the greater of one thousand five hundred dollars or the actual damages sustained as a result of the infringement, and any profits that are attributable to the infringement and not taken into account when calculating actual damages. To prove profits under this section, the injured party or parties must submit proof of gross revenues attributable to the infringement, and the infringing party is required to prove his or her deductible expenses. For the purposes of computing statutory damages, use of a name, voice, signature, photograph, and/or likeness in or related to one work constitutes a single act of infringement regardless of the number of copies made or the number of times the name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness is displayed.

(3) At any time while an action under this chapter is pending, the court may order the impounding, on reasonable terms, of all materials or any part thereof claimed to have been made or used in violation of the injured party's rights, and the court may enjoin the use of all plates, molds, matrices, masters, tapes, film negatives, or other articles by means of which such materials may be reproduced.

(4) As part of a final judgment or decree, the court may order the destruction or other reasonable disposition of all materials found to have been made or used in violation of the injured party's rights, and of all plates, molds, matrices, masters, tapes, film negatives, or other articles by means of which such materials may be reproduced.

(5) The prevailing party may recover reasonable attorneys' fees, expenses, and court costs incurred in recovering any remedy or defending any claim brought under this section.

(6) The remedies provided for in this section are cumulative and are in addition to any others provided for by law. [1998 c 274 § 6.]

63.60.070 Exemptions from use restrictions—When chapter does not apply. (1) For purposes of RCW 63.60.050, the use of a name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness in connection with matters of cultural, historical, political, religious, educational, newsworthy, or public interest, including, without limitation, comment, criticism, satire, and parody relating thereto, shall not constitute a use for

which consent is required under this chapter. A matter exempt from consent under this subsection does not lose such exempt status because it appears in the form of a paid advertisement if it is clear that the principal purpose of the advertisement is to comment on such matter.

(2) This chapter does not apply to the use or authorization of use of an individual's or personality's name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness, in any of the following:

(a) Single and original works of fine art, including but not limited to photographic, graphic, and sculptural works of art that are not published in more than five copies;

(b) A literary work, theatrical work, musical composition, film, radio, online or television program, magazine article, news story, public affairs report, or sports broadcast or account, or with any political campaign when the use does not inaccurately claim or state an endorsement by the individual or personality;

(c) An advertisement or commercial announcement for a use permitted by subsections (1) and (7) of this section and (a) or (b) of this subsection;

(d) An advertisement, commercial announcement, or packaging for the authorized sale, distribution, performance, broadcast, or display of a literary, musical, cinematographic, or other artistic work using the name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness of the writer, author, composer, director, actor, or artist who created the work, where such individual or personality consented to the use of his or her name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness on or in connection with the initial sale, distribution, performance, or display thereof; and

(e) The advertisement or sale of a rare or fine product, including but not limited to books, which incorporates the signature of the author.

(3) It is no defense to an infringement action under this chapter that the use of an individual's or personality's name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness includes more than one individual or personality so identifiable. However, the individuals or personalities complaining of the use shall not bring their cause of action as a class action.

(4) RCW 63.60.050 does not apply to the owners or employees of any medium used for advertising, including but not limited to, newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations, online service providers, billboards, and transit ads, who have published or disseminated any advertisement or solicitation in violation of this chapter, unless the advertisement or solicitation was intended to promote the medium itself.

(5) This chapter does not apply to a use or authorization of use of an individual's or personality's name that is merely descriptive and used fairly and in good faith only to identify or describe something other than the individual or personality, such as, without limitation, to describe or identify a place, a legacy, a style, a theory, an ownership interest, or a party to a transaction or to accurately describe the goods or services of a party.

(6) This chapter does not apply to the use of an individual's or personality's name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness when the use of the individual's or personality's name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness is an insignificant, de minimis, or incidental use.

(7) This chapter does not apply to the distribution, promotion, transfer, or license of a photograph or other material containing an individual's or personality's name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness to a third party for use in a manner which is lawful under this chapter, or to a third party for further distribution, promotion, transfer, or license for use in a manner which is lawful under this chapter. [2004 c 71 § 3; 1998 c 274 § 7.]

63.60.080 Community property rights. Nothing contained in this chapter is intended to invalidate any community property rights. [1998 c 274 § 8.]

