

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 470

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CUNNINGHAM.

Read 1st time February 23, 2017, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

2096S.02I

AN ACT

To repeal section 447.581, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to unclaimed property, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 447.581, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 447.581, to read as follows:

447.581. 1. No agreement entered into after a report is filed is valid if
2 any person undertakes thereby to locate or reveal the whereabouts of property
3 included in that report for a fee or compensation, unless the agreement discloses
4 the nature and value of the property, is in writing, duly signed and acknowledged
5 by the property owner.

6 2. Any agreement to pay compensation to recover or assist in the recovery
7 of property reported or delivered to the treasurer under the provisions of sections
8 447.500 to 447.595 which is made within twelve months after the date of payment
9 or delivery to the treasurer is unenforceable. Any agreement to pay compensation
10 to recover or assist in the recovery of property reported or delivered to the
11 treasurer which is made more than twelve months, but less than twenty-four
12 months, after the date of payment or delivery to the treasurer shall be invalid if
13 the compensation for recovery is greater than ten percent of the property at
14 issue. Any agreement to pay compensation to recover or assist in the recovery of
15 property reported or delivered to the treasurer which is made more than
16 twenty-four months, but less than thirty-six months, after the date of payment
17 or delivery to the treasurer shall be invalid if the compensation for recovery is
18 greater than fifteen percent of the property at issue. Any agreement to pay
19 compensation to recover or assist in the recovery of property reported or delivered
20 to the treasurer which is made more than thirty-six months after the date of

21 payment or delivery to the treasurer shall be invalid if the compensation for
22 recovery is greater than twenty percent of the property at issue.

23 3. Except as provided in subsection 7 of this section, any person who
24 enters into an agreement to recover or perform in a representative capacity to
25 assist in the recovery of property reported or delivered to the treasurer under
26 sections 447.500 to 447.595, for compensation, shall register with the treasurer
27 prior to submitting a claim to the treasurer for recovery of such property. Any
28 claim filed by a person acting in a representative capacity for the recovery of
29 property reported or delivered to the treasurer under sections 447.500 to 447.595,
30 for compensation, shall be invalid unless the person is registered with the
31 treasurer in accordance with this section. Every person who registers with the
32 treasurer in accordance with this section shall certify compliance and good
33 standing with the tax, business registration and other regulatory requirements
34 of the state of Missouri. To remain registered a person must annually recertify
35 compliance with such requirements.

36 4. The treasurer may require such additional information from persons
37 wishing to register in accordance with the provisions of this section as the
38 treasurer reasonably believes to be necessary to protect the rightful owners of
39 property presumed abandoned and the citizens of the state of Missouri, generally.

40 5. If the treasurer receives information, directly or indirectly, which gives
41 the treasurer reason to believe that a person registered in accordance with the
42 provisions of this section to recover or perform in a representative capacity to
43 assist in the recovery of property reported or delivered to the treasurer, for
44 compensation, has violated the provisions of sections 447.500 to 447.595, or any
45 other provision of law, the treasurer may suspend the registration of such person.
46 In such a case, the treasurer shall notify the person in writing of the grounds for
47 the proposed suspension of registration and provide the person an opportunity to
48 respond to the allegations in writing or, upon request, through a hearing
49 conducted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 536. For good cause
50 shown, the treasurer may refrain from acting on any claim filed by such a person
51 pending determination of the appropriateness of suspending such a person's
52 registration. Suspension of a person's registration by the treasurer shall not be
53 a prerequisite nor a substitute for any other civil or criminal causes of action to
54 which such person may otherwise be subject, but is in addition to such possible
55 remedies. Any information obtained or compiled by the treasurer in determining
56 whether to register or suspend such a person's registration may be disclosed to

57 appropriate law enforcement agencies, in any investigation, action or proceeding,
58 civil, criminal or mixed, brought by a governmental agency to enforce the laws of
59 this state, and except for the treasurer's office work product, upon court order in
60 any action or proceeding where such information is material to an issue in the
61 action or proceeding.

62 6. Any person whose registration has been suspended or which has lapsed
63 pursuant to this section may thereafter seek to reregister in accordance with the
64 provisions of this section.

65 7. Subsection 1 of this section shall not apply to any agreement made by
66 any person, including personal representatives, guardians, trustee, and others in
67 a representative capacity, with another to discover property in which such person
68 has an interest for a fixed fee or hourly or daily rate, not contingent upon the
69 discovery of property or the value of property discovered; provided, however, that
70 any agreement entered into under this subsection for the purpose of evading the
71 provisions of subsection 1 of this section shall be invalid and unenforceable.

72 8. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an owner from
73 asserting, at any time, that any agreement to locate or reveal the whereabouts of
74 properties is based on an excessive or unjust consideration.

75 **9. Except as provided under subsection 7 of this section, any**
76 **person who enters into an agreement to recover or perform in a**
77 **representative capacity to assist in the recovery of property reported**
78 **or delivered to the treasurer under sections 447.500 to 447.595, for**
79 **compensation, without first registering with the treasurer under**
80 **subsection 3 of this section shall be guilty of an offense. The offense**
81 **shall be a class B misdemeanor if the compensation under the**
82 **agreement is within the amounts permitted under subsection 2 of this**
83 **section. The offense shall be a class A misdemeanor if the**
84 **compensation under the agreement is in excess of the amounts**
85 **permitted under subsection 2 of this section.**

86 **10. The treasurer may review any claim and contact any person**
87 **or other party making a claim to ensure compliance with sections**
88 **447.500 to 447.595. The treasurer may withhold payment of any claim**
89 **until the treasurer is reasonably satisfied that the claim is legitimate,**
90 **that the representative acting under an agreement under this section**
91 **is in compliance with the provisions of this section, and that the person**
92 **making the claim is aware of the nature and potential value of the**

93 **person's claim.**

✓

Unofficial

Bill

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