

556.17 Sale of abandoned property.

1. All abandoned property other than money delivered to the treasurer of state under this chapter which remains unclaimed one year after the delivery to the treasurer may be sold to the highest bidder in a manner that affords in the treasurer's judgment the most favorable market for the property involved. The treasurer of state may decline the highest bid and reoffer the property for sale if the treasurer considers the price bid insufficient. The treasurer need not offer any property for sale if, in the treasurer's opinion, the probable cost of sale exceeds the value of the property. The treasurer may order destruction of the property when the treasurer has determined that the probable cost of offering the property for sale exceeds the value of the property. If the treasurer determines that the property delivered does not have any substantial commercial value, the treasurer may destroy or otherwise dispose of the property at any time. An action or proceeding may not be maintained against the treasurer or any officer or against the holder for or on account of an act the treasurer made under this section, except for intentional misconduct or malfeasance.

2. a. Any sale held under this section shall be preceded by a single publication of notice of the sale at least three weeks in advance of sale in an English language newspaper of general circulation in the county from which the property was received, or in an English language newspaper of general circulation in the state.

b. If the treasurer holds an internet auction or a sale on the internet, the treasurer may elect to provide notice of the sale or auction on the treasurer's website at least seven days in advance of the sale or auction in lieu of providing notice as otherwise provided in accordance with paragraph "a".

3. The purchaser at any sale conducted by the state treasurer pursuant to this chapter shall receive title to the property purchased, free from all claims of the owner or prior holder thereof and of all persons claiming through or under them. The state treasurer shall execute all documents necessary to complete the transfer of title.

4. Unless the treasurer of state considers it to be in the best interest of the state to do otherwise, all securities, other than those presumed abandoned under section 556.5, delivered to the treasurer of state must be held for at least one year before the treasurer of state may sell them.

5. Unless the treasurer of state considers it to be in the best interest of the state to do otherwise, all securities presumed abandoned under section 556.5 and delivered to the treasurer of state must be held for at least one year before the treasurer of state may sell them. If the treasurer of state sells any securities delivered pursuant to section 556.5 before the expiration of the one-year period, any person making a claim pursuant to this chapter before the end of the one-year period is entitled to either the proceeds of the sale of the securities or the market value of the securities at the time the claim is made, whichever amount is greater, less any deduction for fees pursuant to section 556.18, subsection 2. A person making a claim under this chapter after the expiration of this period is entitled to receive either the securities delivered to the treasurer of state by the holder, if they still remain in the hands of the treasurer of state, or the proceeds received from the sale, less any amounts deducted pursuant to section 556.18, subsection 2, but 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 any appreciation in the value of the property occurring after delivery by the holder to the treasurer of state.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §556.17]

84 Acts, ch 1295, §19; 94 Acts, ch 1188, §37; 2003 Acts, ch 64, §7; 2009 Acts, ch 181, §40

Referred to in §524.1305, 524.1310, 556.18