

FEB 15 1999

JUDICIARY

HOUSE FILE

279

BY DODERER

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the disposition of certain lost property.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 279

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 556F.6A FINDER'S OPTIONS IN
2 DISPOSING OF FOUND PROPERTY.

3 A person who finds lost goods, money, bank notes, or other
4 property, and where the owner is unknown, may do either of the
5 following:

6 1. Comply with the provisions of sections 556F.7 through
7 556F.10.

8 2. Deliver the goods, money, bank notes, or other property
9 to the sheriff of the county where such property was found, or
10 to a local law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where
11 the property was found. The sheriff or local law enforcement
12 agency shall make every reasonable effort to identify the
13 owner of the property and return the property if the owner is
14 located. If the owner of the property is not identified and a
15 person does not appear to claim and prove ownership of the
16 property within twelve months of the date the property is
17 delivered to the sheriff or local law enforcement agency, the
18 right to the property is irrevocably vested in the finder and
19 the property shall be delivered to the finder.

20 EXPLANATION

21 This bill establishes an alternative option for a person to
22 dispose of found property. The bill provides that the person
23 may deliver the goods, money, bank notes, or other property to
24 the sheriff of the county where such property was found, or to
25 a local law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the
26 property was found. The sheriff or local law enforcement
27 agency is given responsibility for attempting to find the
28 owner of the found property. If the owner is not located and
29 no one claims the property within 12 months of the date the
30 property is delivered to the sheriff or local law enforcement
31 agency, the right to the property is irrevocably vested in the
32 finder and the property shall be delivered to the finder.
33 Currently, the finder of the property is charged with the
34 responsibility of attempting to locate the owner and posting
35 notice on the door of the courthouse of the county in which

1 the property was found and three other public places in the
2 county. This option remains for the finder.

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