

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2303

By: McCarter and Nance of the
House

and

Helton of the Senate

An Act relating to the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act; amending 63 O.S. 2001, Section 2-508, which relates to seized property; modifying amount of seized substance which must be retained; modifying number of samples required to be taken under certain circumstances; removing information required to be included in certain notices; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2001, Section 2-508, is amended to read as follows:

Section 2-508. A. Except as otherwise provided, all property described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of subsection A of Section 2-503 of this title which is seized or surrendered pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, Section 2-101 et seq. of this title, shall be destroyed. The destruction shall be done by or at the direction of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, who shall have the discretion prior to destruction to preserve samples of the substance for testing. In any county with a population of four hundred thousand (400,000) or more according to the latest Federal Decennial Census, there shall be a located site, approved by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, for the destruction of the property. Any such property submitted to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation which it deems to be of use for investigative training, educational, or analytical purposes may be retained by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation in lieu of destruction.

B. 1. With respect to controlled dangerous substances seized or surrendered pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, municipal police departments, sheriffs, the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control Commission, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, and the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation shall have the authority to destroy seized controlled dangerous substances when the amount seized in a single incident exceeds ten (10) pounds. The destroying agency shall:

- a. photograph the seized substance with identifying case numbers or other means of identification,
- b. prepare a report describing the seized substance prior to the destruction,
- c. retain at least ~~ten (10) pounds~~ one (1) pound of the substance randomly selected from the seized substance for the purpose of evidence, and
- d. obtain and retain samples of the substance from ~~each container, bale, brick~~ enough containers, bales, bricks, or other unit units of substance seized ~~that is~~ to establish the presence of a weight of the substance necessary to establish a violation of the Trafficking in Illegal Drugs Act pursuant to subsection C of Section 2-415 of this title, if such a weight is present. If such weight is not present, samples of the substance from each container, bale, brick or other unit of substance seized shall be taken. Each sample taken pursuant to this section shall be large enough for the destroying agency and the defendant or suspect to have an independent test performed on the substance for purposes of identification.

2. If a defendant or suspect is known to the destroying agency, the destroying agency shall give at least seven (7) days' written

notice to the defendant, suspect or counsel for the defendant or suspect of:

- a. the date, the time, and the place where the photographing will take place and notice of the right to attend the photographing, and
- b. ~~the date, and the time where the destruction will be conducted, and~~
- ~~e.~~ the right to obtain samples of the controlled dangerous substance for independent testing and use as evidence.

3. The written notice shall also inform the defendant, suspect or counsel for the defendant or suspect that the destroying agency must be notified in writing within seven (7) days from receipt of the notice of the intent of the suspect or defendant to obtain random samples and make arrangements for the taking of samples. The samples for the defendant or suspect must be taken by a person licensed by the Drug Enforcement Administration. If the defendant or counsel for the defendant fails to notify the destroying agency in writing of an intent to obtain samples and fails to make arrangements for the taking of samples, a sample taken pursuant to subparagraph d of paragraph 1 of this subsection shall be made available upon request of the defendant or suspect.

The representative samples, the photographs, the reports, and the records made under this section and properly identified shall be admissible in any court or administrative proceeding for any purposes for which the seized substance itself would have been admissible.

C. All other property not otherwise provided for in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act which has come into the possession of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control or a district attorney may be disposed of by order of the district court when no longer needed in connection with any

litigation. If the owner of the property is unknown to the Bureau or district attorney, the Bureau shall hold the property for at least six (6) months prior to filing a petition for disposal with the district court except for laboratory equipment which may be forfeited when no longer needed in connection with litigation, unless the property is perishable. The Director or district attorney shall file a petition in the district court of Oklahoma County or in the case of a district attorney, the petition shall be filed in a county within the district attorney's jurisdiction requesting the authority to:

1. Conduct a sale of the property;

2. Convert title of the property to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control or to the district attorney's office for donation or transfer in accordance with subsection I or K of this section; or

3. Convert title of the property to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control for the purpose of leasing the property in accordance with subsection J of this section.

The Director or district attorney shall attach to the petition a list describing the property, including all identifying numbers and marks, if any, the date the property came into the possession of the Bureau or district attorney, and the name and address of the owner, if known. The notice of the hearing of the petition for the sale of the property, except laboratory equipment used in the processing, manufacturing or compounding of controlled dangerous substances in violation of the provisions of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, shall be given to every known owner, as set forth in the petition, by certified mail to the last-known address of the owner at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing.

Notice of a hearing on a petition for forfeiture or sale of laboratory equipment used in the processing, manufacturing or compounding of controlled dangerous substances in violation of the

Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act shall not be required. The notice shall contain a brief description of the property, and the location and date of the hearing. In addition, notice of the hearing shall be posted in three public places in the county, one such place being the county courthouse at the regular place assigned for the posting of legal notices. At the hearing, if no owner appears and establishes ownership of the property, the court may enter an order authorizing the Director or district attorney to donate the property pursuant to subsection I of this section, to sell the property at a public auction to the highest bidder, or to convert title of the property to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control for the purpose of leasing or transferring the property pursuant to subsection J or K of this section after at least ten (10) days' notice has been given by publication in one issue of a legal newspaper of the county. If the property is offered for sale at public auction and no bid is received that exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the value of the property, such value to be announced prior to the sale, the Director or district attorney may refuse to sell the item pursuant to any bid received. The Director or district attorney shall make a return of the sale and, when confirmed by the court, the order confirming the sale shall vest in the purchaser title to the property so purchased. The money received from the sale shall be used for the purpose of purchasing controlled dangerous substances to be used as evidence in narcotic cases and fees for informers, or employees and other associated expenses necessary to apprehend and convict violators of the laws of the State of Oklahoma regulating controlled dangerous substances. These funds shall be transferred to the agency special account established pursuant to Section 7.2 of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes or the Bureau of Narcotics Revolving Fund or in the case of a district attorney, the revolving fund in that district for drug education and enforcement. The Director of the Bureau of

Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control and the Director of State Finance are hereby authorized and directed to promulgate in writing the necessary rules and regulations requiring strict accountability relative to the expenditure of the above funds. In the case of a district attorney, the accountability relative to the expenditure of the fund shall be according to rules already existing for county revolving funds.

D. At the request of the Department of Public Safety, the district attorney or a designee of the district attorney may conduct any forfeiture proceedings as described in Section 2-503 of this title on any property subject to forfeiture as described in subsection A, B, or C of Section 2-503 of this title. Except as provided in subsection A of this section, all other property not otherwise provided for in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act which has come into the possession of the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety may be disposed of by order of the district court when no longer needed in connection with any litigation. If the owner of the property is unknown to the Department, the Department shall hold the property for at least six (6) months prior to filing a petition for disposal with the district court, unless the property is perishable. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall file a petition in the district court of Oklahoma County requesting the authority to conduct a sale of the property or to convert title of the property to the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall attach to the petition a list describing the property, including all identifying numbers and marks, if any, the date the property came into the possession of the Department, and the name and address of the owner, if known. The notice of the hearing of the petition for the sale of the property shall be given to every known owner, as set forth in the petition, by certified mail to the last-known address of the owner and party in last possession if

applicable, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing. The notice shall contain a brief description of the property, and the location and date of the hearing. In addition, notice of the hearing shall be posted in three public places in the county, one such place being the county courthouse at the regular place assigned for the posting of legal notices. At the hearing, if no owner appears and establishes ownership of the property, the court may enter an order authorizing the Commissioner of Public Safety to donate the property pursuant to subsection I of this section, to sell the property to the highest bidder, or convert title of the property to the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety for the purpose of leasing or transferring the property pursuant to subsection J or K of this section after at least five (5) days' notice has been given by publication in one issue of a legal newspaper of the county. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall make a return of the sale and, when confirmed by the court, the order confirming the sale shall vest in the purchaser title to the property so purchased. The money received from the sale shall be deposited in the Department of Public Safety Revolving Fund and shall be expended for law enforcement purposes.

E. Except as provided in subsection A of this section, all other property not otherwise provided for in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act which has come into the possession of the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission may be disposed of by order of the district court when no longer needed in connection with any litigation. If the owner of the property is unknown to the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission, the Commission shall hold the property for at least six (6) months prior to filing a petition for disposal with the district court, unless the property is perishable. The Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission shall file a petition in the district court of Oklahoma County requesting the authority to conduct a sale of the

property or to convert title of the property to the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission. The Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission shall attach to the petition a list describing the property, including all identifying numbers and marks, if any, the date the property came into the possession of the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission, and the name and address of the owner, if known. The notice of the hearing of the petition for the sale of the property shall be given to every known owner, as set forth in the petition, by certified mail to the last-known address of the owner at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing. The notice shall contain a brief description of the property, and the location and date of the hearing. In addition, notice of the hearing shall be posted in three public places in the county, one such place being the county courthouse at the regular place assigned for the posting of legal notices. At the hearing, if no owner appears and establishes ownership of the property, the court may enter an order authorizing the Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission to donate the property pursuant to subsection I of this section or to sell the property to the highest bidder after at least five (5) days' notice has been given by publication in one issue of a legal newspaper of the county. The Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission shall make a return of the sale and, when confirmed by the court, the order confirming the sale shall vest in the purchaser title to the property so purchased. The money received from the sale shall be deposited in the General Revenue Fund of the state.

F. Except as provided in subsection A of this section, all other property not otherwise provided for in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act which has come into the possession of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation may be disposed of by order of the district court when no longer needed in connection with any litigation. If the owner of the property is unknown to the Bureau,

the Bureau shall hold the property for at least six (6) months prior to filing a petition for disposal with the district court, unless the property is perishable. The Director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation shall file a petition in the district court of Oklahoma County requesting the authority to conduct a sale of the property or to convert title of the property to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. The Director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation shall attach to the petition a list describing the property, including all identifying numbers and marks, if any, the date the property came into the possession of the Bureau, and the name and address of the owner, if known. The notice of the hearing of the petition for the sale of the property shall be given to every known owner, as set forth in the petition, by certified mail to the last-known address of the owner and party in last possession if applicable, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing. The notice shall contain a brief description of the property, and the location and date of the hearing. In addition, notice of the hearing shall be posted in three public places in the county, one such place being the county courthouse at the regular place assigned for the posting of legal notices. At the hearing, if no owner appears and establishes ownership of the property, the court may enter an order authorizing the Director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation to donate the property pursuant to subsection I of this section, to sell the property to the highest bidder, or convert title of the property to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of leasing or transferring the property pursuant to subsection J or K of this section after at least five (5) days' notice has been given by publication in one issue of a legal newspaper of the county. The Director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation shall make a return of the sale and, when confirmed by the court, the order confirming the sale shall vest in the purchaser title to the property so purchased. The money received

from the sale shall be deposited in the OSBI Revolving Fund and shall be expended for law enforcement purposes.

G. Except as provided in subsection A of this section, all other property not otherwise provided for in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act which has come into the possession of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections may be disposed of by order of the district court when no longer needed in connection with any litigation. If the owner of the property is unknown to the Department, the Department shall hold the property for at least six (6) months prior to filing a petition for disposal with the district court, unless the property is perishable. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections shall file a petition in the district court of the county of seizure requesting the authority to conduct a sale of the property or to convert title to the property to the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections shall attach to the petition a list describing the property, including all identifying numbers and marks, if any, the date the property came into possession of the Department and the name and address of the owner, if known. The notice of the hearing of the petition for the sale of the property shall be given to every known owner, as set forth in the petition, by certified mail to the last-known address of the owner and party in last possession if applicable, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing. The notice shall contain a brief description of the property and the location and date of the hearing. In addition, notice of the hearing shall be posted in three public places in the county, one such place being the county courthouse at the regular place assigned for the posting of legal notices. At the hearing, if no owner appears and establishes ownership of the property, the court may enter an order authorizing the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections to donate the property pursuant to subsection I of this section, to sell the

property to the highest bidder or convert title of the property to the Oklahoma Department of Corrections after at least five (5) days' notice has been given by publication in one issue of a legal newspaper of the county. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections shall make a return of the sale and when confirmed by the court, the order confirming the sale shall vest in the purchaser title to the property so purchased. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the money received from the sale shall be disbursed to a revolving fund in the office of the county treasurer of the county wherein the property was seized, said fund to be used as a revolving fund solely for enforcement of controlled dangerous substances laws, drug abuse prevention and drug abuse education. The remaining seventy-five percent (75%) shall be deposited in the Department of Corrections Revolving Fund to be expended for equipment for probation and parole officers and correctional officers.

H. Except as provided in subsection A of this section, all other property not otherwise provided for in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act which has come into the possession of the Office of the Attorney General may be disposed of by order of the district court when no longer needed in connection with any litigation. If the owner of the property is unknown to the Office, the Office shall hold the property for at least six (6) months prior to filing a petition for disposal with the district court, unless the property is perishable. The Office of the Attorney General shall file a petition in the district court of Oklahoma County requesting the authority to conduct a sale of the property or to convert title of the property to the Office of the Attorney General. The Office of the Attorney General shall attach to the petition a list describing the property, including all identifying numbers and marks, if any, the date the property came into the possession of the Office, and the name and address of the owner, if known. The notice of the hearing of the petition for the sale of the property shall be

given to every known owner, as set forth in the petition, by certified mail to the last-known address of the owner and party in last possession, if applicable, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing. The notice shall contain a brief description of the property and the location and date of the hearing. In addition, notice of the hearing shall be posted in three public places in the county, one such place being the county courthouse at the regular place assigned for the posting of legal notices. At the hearing, if no owner appears and establishes ownership of the property, the court may enter an order authorizing the Attorney General to donate the property pursuant to subsection I of this section, to sell the property to the highest bidder, or convert title of the property to the Office of the Attorney General for the purpose of leasing or transferring the property pursuant to subsection J or K of this section after at least five (5) days' notice has been given by publication in one issue of a legal newspaper of the county. The Attorney General shall make a return of the sale and, when confirmed by the court, the order confirming the sale shall vest in the purchaser title to the property so purchased. The money received from the sale shall be deposited in the Attorney General Law Enforcement Revolving Fund and shall be expended for law enforcement purposes. The Office of the Attorney General may enter into agreements with municipal, county or state agencies to return to such an agency a percentage of proceeds of the sale of any property seized by the agency and forfeited under the provisions of this section.

I. Any property, including but not limited to uncontaminated laboratory equipment used in the processing, manufacturing or compounding of controlled dangerous substances in violation of the provisions of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, upon a court order, may be donated for classroom or laboratory use by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control,

Oklahoma Department of Public Safety, district attorney, the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, or the Office of the Attorney General to any public secondary school or technology center school in this state or any institution of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

J. Any vehicle or firearm which has come into the possession and title vested in the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control, the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, or the Office of the Attorney General, may be offered for lease to any sheriff's office or police department in this state on an annual basis to assist with the enforcement of the provisions of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act. Each agency shall promulgate rules, regulations and procedures for leasing vehicles and firearms. No fully automatic weapons will be subject to the leasing agreement. All firearms leased may be utilized only by C.L.E.E.T. certified officers who have received training in the type and class of weapon leased. Every lessee shall be required to submit an annual report to the leasing agency stating the condition of all leased property. A lease agreement may be renewed annually at the option of the leasing agency. Upon termination of a lease agreement, the property shall be returned to the leasing agency for sale or other disposition. All funds derived from lease agreements or other disposition of property no longer useful to law enforcement shall be deposited in the agency's revolving fund and shall be expended for law enforcement purposes.

K. Before disposing of any property pursuant to subsections C through F of this section, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control, the Department of Public Safety, the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, the Office of the Attorney General, or a

district attorney shall notify the Department of Corrections and the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education of the identity of any such property in their possession. The Department of Corrections and the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education must respond within ten (10) days of such notification, as to whether or not such property could be used in the operations or training programs of either agency. Upon receipt of the response, the agency or district attorney that issued the notification shall negotiate as to which agency will be entitled to the use of the property, the purpose of the use and the duration of such use. Upon return of the property, the property may be disposed of as otherwise provided in this section. The agencies and any district attorney that are parties to any transfer of property pursuant to this subsection shall enter into written agreements to carry out any such transfer of property. Any such agreement may also provide for the granting of title to any property being transferred as the parties deem appropriate.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2002.

Passed the House of Representatives the 25th day of February, 2002.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2002.

Presiding Officer of the Senate