1	ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT TO
2	ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 1534 By: Weaver of the Senate
3	and
4	O'Donnell of the House
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7	An Act relating to the Uniform Unclaimed Property
8	Act; amending 60 O.S. 2021, Sections 661, 662, and 674.2, which relate to reports of abandoned property,
9	notice and publication, and property delivered to State Treasurer; authorizing electronic communication
LO	under certain circumstances; increasing value for property for which the State Treasurer is not
L1	required to publish notice; increasing value of property for which claimant is required to provide
12	certain documentation; updating statutory language; and providing an effective date.
13	and providing an effective date.
L 4	
L5	
L 6	
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L8	AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the title, enacting clause, and entire bill and insert:
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21	"[ Uniform Unclaimed Property Act - abandoned
22	property - terms - will - trust - State Treasurer -
23	certain instruments - electronic communication -
24	increasing value - property - publish notice -

1	abandoned property - claim form - requirements -
2	payment - conflicting claims - electronic copies -
3	records - hearings - procedure - service fees -
4	Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement - Unclaimed
5	Property Purchase Agreement - designated
6	representative - required disclosures - total fees
7	and costs - purchaser - assignment - unclaimed
8	property - sum - terms and conditions - Unclaimed
9	Property Agreement Addendum form - downloadable
10	form - providing signature requirements -
11	interpleader action - distribution - notarized
12	certification - trust instrument - increasing value
13	- documentation - required documentation -
14	disclosure of books, accounts, and record -
15	electronic documents - fees and costs - register -
16	registration fee - completion of form - background
17	check - false information - registrant -
18	registration - material changes - status - names -
19	registration term limit - renewal fees - designated
20	representative's registration - registered
21	claimant's designated representative - database -
22	unclaimed accounts - information - unclaimed
23	property information - purposes - confidentiality -
24	violations - actions - disciplinary actions -
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1 enforcement action - civil actions - investigation 2 - civil or criminal enforcement - statutory language - codification - effective date | 3 4 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA: 6 7 SECTION 1. 60 O.S. 2021, Section 651, is AMENDATORY amended to read as follows: 8 9 Section 651. As used in the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act, unless the context otherwise requires: 10 "Apparent owner" means the person whose name appears on the 11 12 records of the holder as the person entitled to property held, 13 issued, or owing by the holder; 14 2. "Attorney General" means the chief legal officer of this 15 state; 16 3. "Banking organization" means any bank, trust company, 17 savings bank, safe-deposit company, private banker, or any 18 organization defined by other law as a bank or banking organization; 19 "Business association" means a non-public corporation, 20 joint-stock company, investment company, business trust, 21 partnership, or association for business purposes of two or more 22 individuals whether or not for profit, including a banking 23 organization, financial organization, insurance company, or utility;

- 1 5. "Claimant" means the person on whose behalf a claim is 2 filed;
  - 6. "Claimant's designated representative" means a person who
    has successfully registered with the State Treasurer pursuant to
    Section 9 of this act to file unclaimed property claim on behalf of a claimant;
  - 7. "Selling claimant" means a claimant who has agreed to sell
    his or her interest in unclaimed property in the custody of the
    State Treasurer;
  - 8. "Domicile" means the state of incorporation of a corporation and the state of the principal place of business of an unincorporated person;
  - $\frac{6.9.}{}$  "Financial organization" means a savings and loan association, building and loan association, or credit union;
  - $\frac{7.}{10.}$  "Holder" means a person, wherever organized or domiciled, who is:
    - a. in possession of property belonging to another,
    - b. a trustee, or

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- c. indebted to another on an obligation;
- 8. 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
  accidental, 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;

- 9. 12. "Intangible property" includes:
  - a. money, checks, drafts, deposits, interest, dividends, and income,
  - b. credit balances, customer overpayments, security deposits, refunds, credit memos, unpaid wages, unused airline tickets, and unidentified remittances,
  - c. stocks and other intangible ownership interests in business associations,
  - d. monies deposited to redeem stocks, bonds, coupons, and other securities, or to make distributions,
  - e. 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, education or similar benefits;
- 10. 13. "Last-known address" means a description of the location of the apparent owner sufficient for the purpose of the delivery of mail;

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11. 14. "Memorandum" shall include a mark, symbol or statement indicating knowledge of or interest in funds on deposit;

## 12. 15. "Mineral proceeds" includes:

- a. all obligations to pay mineral proceeds resulting from the production and sale of minerals, including net revenue interest, royalties, overriding royalties, production payments, and payments under joint operating agreements, and
- b. all obligations for the acquisition and retention of a mineral lease, including bonuses, delay rentals, shutin royalties, and minimum royalties;
- 13. 16. "Museum" means an institution which is located in this state and operated by a nonprofit corporation or a public agency primarily for educational, scientific, historic preservation or aesthetic purposes, and which owns, borrows, cares for, exhibits, studies archives or catalogues property. "Museum" includes, but is not limited to, historical societies, historical sites or landmarks, parks, monuments and libraries;
- 14. 17. "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 the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act or the person's legal representative. Where more than one person is an

- owner, the property shall not be presumed abandoned unless it has
  remained unclaimed by all of its owners for the periods hereinafter
- 3 prescribed;
- 4 15. 18. "Person" means an individual, business association,
- 5 | state or other government, governmental subdivision or agency,
- 6 public corporation, public authority, estate, trust, two or more
- 7 | persons having a joint or common interest, or any other legal or
- 8 | commercial entity;
- 9 <del>16.</del> 19. "State" means any state, district, commonwealth,
- 10 | territory, insular possession, or other area subject to the
- 11 | legislative authority of the United States;
- 12 17. 20. "State Treasurer" or "Treasurer" means the duly elected
- 13 | and acting State Treasurer of Oklahoma;
- 14 18. 21. "Tax Commission" or "Commission" means the Oklahoma Tax
- 15 | Commission; and
- 16 | 22. "Unclaimed Property Agreement Addendum" means an addendum
- 17 | to accompany claims as provided in Section 674.1 of this title;
- 18 | 23. "Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement" means an agreement
- 19 | between a selling owner and a claimant's designated representative
- 20 wherein the selling owner agrees to sell his or her interest in
- 21 unclaimed property to the purchasing claimant's designated
- 22 representative;
- 23 24. "Unclaimed property recovery amount" means an agreement
- 24 between a claimant and claimant's designated representative for the

recovery of unclaimed property in the custody of the State

## 2 Treasurer; and

- 19. 25. "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.
- 8 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 60 O.S. 2021, Section 657.3, is 9 amended to read as follows:
  - Section 657.3 All tangible and intangible personal property held in a safe\_deposit box or 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 (5) years after the lease or rental period on the box or other repository has expired, are presumed abandoned. If a will or trust instrument is included among the contents of a safe-deposit box or other safekeeping repository delivered to the State Treasurer, the State Treasurer must provide a copy of the will, trust, and any codicils or amendments to such will or trust instrument, upon request, to anyone who provides the State Treasurer with evidence of the death of the testator or settlor.
- SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 60 O.S. 2021, Section 661, is amended to read as follows:

Section 661. A. A person holding property, tangible or intangible, presumed abandoned and subject to custody as unclaimed property under the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act shall report to the State Treasurer concerning the property as provided in this section.

- B. The report must shall be verified and must shall include:
- 1. 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 of the value of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) or more presumed abandoned under the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act and items of value under Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), reported in the aggregate, except property which is one of a recurring number of continuous payments, including, but not limited to, royalties, annuities, dividends, distributions and other sums presumed abandoned pursuant to subsection D of Section 655 of this title, which shall be reported in the same manner as property with a value of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) or more;
- 2. In the case of unclaimed funds of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) or more 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;
- 3. In the case of the contents of a safe\_deposit box or other safekeeping repository or of other tangible personal property, a

- description of the property and the place where it is held, which
  may be inspected by the State Treasurer, and any amounts, including
  offsets for drilling costs and rent, owing to the holder;
  - 4. The description of the property, including type and identifying number, if any, and the amount appearing from the records to be due;

- 5. The date when the property became payable, demandable or returnable, and the date of the last transaction with the owner with respect to the property;
- 6. In the case of a cashier's check, if known, the names and last-known addresses of the payer(s) all payers, the payor(s) all payors and the purchaser(s) purchasers; and
- 7. Any other information reasonably required by the  $\underline{\text{State}}$  Treasurer.
- C. 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 if the name of the holder has changed while holding the property, the holder shall file with the report all known names and addresses of each previous holder of the property.
- D. The report <u>must shall</u> be filed before November 1 of each year for property reportable as of the preceding July 1, but the report of any life insurance company <u>must shall</u> be filed before May 1 of each year for property reportable as of the preceding March 1.

The State Treasurer may postpone the reporting date upon written request by any person required to file a report.

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- E. Not more than one hundred twenty (120) days before filing the report required by this section, the holder in possession of property presumed abandoned and subject to custody as unclaimed property under the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act shall send written notice to the apparent owner at the owner's last-known address informing the owner that the holder is in possession of property subject to the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act if:
  - 1. The holder has in the records of the holder an address for the apparent owner which the holder's records do not disclose to be inaccurate;
  - 2. The claim of the apparent owner is not barred by the statute of limitations; and
  - 3. The property has a value of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) or more, or the property has a value of less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) and is one of a recurring number of continuous payments, including, but not limited to, royalties, annuities, dividends, distributions and other recurring sums presumed abandoned pursuant to subsection D of Section 655 of this title. The holder is not required to send written notice to the owner if the holder has previously attempted to communicate with the owner, or otherwise exercised due diligence to ascertain the whereabouts of the owner. Communication shall include written notice and, if initiated by the apparent owner,

- electronic mail and other forms of electronic correspondence. The
  mailing of notice by first-class mail to the last-known address of
  the owner by the holder shall constitute compliance with this
- 4 subsection and, if done, no further act on the part of the holder 5 shall be necessary.
- F. Reports filed by a holder shall remain confidential except
  for that information required to be subject to public inspection
  pursuant to the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act.
- 9 G. The Treasurer may require a holder reporting fifteen or more
  10 items of property pursuant to this section to file the report
  11 online. The Treasurer shall promulgate rules necessary to carry out
  12 provisions for online filing.
- SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 60 O.S. 2021, Section 662, is amended to read as follows:
- 15 Section 662. A. The State Treasurer shall cause at least two 16 notices to be published during the year following the report 17 required by Section 661 of this title in a legal newspaper of 18 general circulation in the county in this state in which is located 19 the last-known address of any person to be named in the notice. 20 Different legal newspapers of general circulation may be used for 21 each notice. If no address is listed or if the address is outside 22 this state, the notice must shall be published in the county within 23 this state which is the principal place of business of the holder of 24 the abandoned property, or in an Oklahoma a newspaper in this state

- which the State Treasurer believes most likely to be seen by the owner of the property or by heirs of the owner.
  - B. The published notice <u>must shall</u> be entitled "Notice of Names of Persons Appearing to be Owners of Abandoned Property", and contain:
    - 1. The names in alphabetical order and last-known address, if any, of persons listed in the report and entitled to notice within the county as specified in subsection A of this section;
    - 2. A statement that information concerning the property and the name and last-known address of the holder may be obtained by any person possessing an interest in the property by addressing an inquiry to the State Treasurer; and
    - 3. A statement that the property is in the custody of the State Treasurer and all claims must be directed to the State Treasurer.
    - C. The State Treasurer is not required to publish in the notice any items of less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) One Hundred Fifty

      Dollars (\$150.00) unless the State Treasurer considers their publication to be in the public interest.
    - D. The State Treasurer shall provide electronic access to the new names and last-known addresses of all persons reported to the State Treasurer as owners of unclaimed property on an Internet web site. The State Treasurer shall take reasonable steps to publicize the existence of this web site and shall publish an advertisement no

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less than once each calendar quarter in a legal newspaper of general circulation in each county of this state.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 60 O.S. 2021, Section 674, is amended to read as follows:

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Section 674. A. A person, excluding another claiming other than a state, claiming but including a registered claimant's designated representative, who claims an interest in any property paid or delivered to the State Treasurer may file with the State Treasurer a claim on a form prescribed by the State Treasurer and verified by the claimant or the claimant's designated representative. The date of filing of a claim shall be the date it is received by the State Treasurer with all supporting documentation from the claimant. Any information submitted by a claimant which is required to be submitted to the State Treasurer to establish a claim may be kept confidential by the State Treasurer if it contains personal financial information of the claimant, personal identifying information such as the address, date of birth, telephone number or email address of the claimant, Social Security numbers, birth certificates or similar documents related to the parentage of an individual, or any other document which is confidential by statute if in the custody of another public agency or person Failure to use the claim form prescribed by the State Treasurer shall void the claim. The claim form shall require information the State Treasurer

- believes to be reasonably necessary to administer the requirements
  of this act, including, but not limited to:
  - 1. A legible copy of the claimant's valid driver license;

- 2. A legible copy of a photographic identification of the claimant issued by the United States or a state or territory of the United States, a valid passport or national identification card issued by a foreign nation, or other evidence deemed acceptable by the State Treasurer; and
- 3. For claims submitted by a registered claimant's designated representative, a duly executed copy of the Unclaimed Property

  Recovery Agreement or the Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement, as applicable, and as further described in this section.
- B. The State Treasurer shall consider each claim within ninety (90) days after it is filed and give written notice to the claimant and, if the person is utilizing the service of a designated representative, to the claimant's designated representative if the claim is denied in whole or in part. The notice may be given by mailing it to the claimant's designated representatives, if any, or to the claimant's last address, if any, as 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, or if the claim is deemed void pursuant to subsection A of this section.

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- C. If a claim <u>submitted by the claimant</u> is <u>allowed approved</u>, the State Treasurer shall pay over or deliver to the claimant the property or the amount the State Treasurer actually received or the net proceeds if it has been sold by the State Treasurer, together with any additional amount required by Section 665 of this title, but no person shall have any claim under this section against the state, the holder, any transfer agent, registrar or other person acting for or on behalf of the state or a holder, for any appreciation or depreciation in the value of the property or any earnings that might otherwise accrue, after sale of the property by the State Treasurer.
- D. 1. If a claim submitted by a claimant's designated representative is approved, the State Treasurer shall pay over or deliver to the claimant the balance remaining after deduction and payment of the amount due to the claimant's designated representative by the State Treasurer; provided, however, that any payments made directly to the claimant's designated representative shall be made only pursuant to the terms of the Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement or Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement that have been submitted with the claim and only if the claimant's designated representative is registered pursuant to Section 674.2 of this title.

- 2. The State Treasurer is authorized to make distribution of 2 the property or money in accordance with the Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement or Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement. The 3
- 4 Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement or Unclaimed Property Purchase
- 5 Agreement shall be executed by the claimant or selling owner and
- 6 shall be filed with the State Treasurer along with the claim.
- 7 3. Payments of fees and costs to the claimant's designated 8 representative authorized under an Unclaimed Property Recovery 9 Agreement for approved claims shall be made by paper check or other 10 means approved by the State Treasurer on such periodic schedule as
- 11 the State Treasurer may define; provided, however, payment for
- 12 approved claims shall be made to both the claimant and the
- 13 claimant's representative within sixty (60) days of approval.
- 14 E. The contents of safe-deposit boxes shall be delivered
- 15 directly to the claimant and not to the claimant's designated
- 16 representative. Any lien owed to the lessor of the safe-deposit box
- 17 shall be deducted from the value of the contents of the safe-deposit
- 18 box.

- 19 F. When the State Treasurer receives conflicting claims for the
- 20 same unclaimed property account or accounts, the property shall be
- 21 remitted in accordance with the following, notwithstanding the
- 22 withdrawal of a claim:
- 23 1. Preference shall be given to the person submitting the first
- 24 claim received by the State Treasurer that is complete or made

- complete. A claim is complete when entitlement to the unclaimed property has been established;
  - 2. When a claimant's claim and a claimant's designated representative's claim are received by the State Treasurer on the same day and both claims are complete, the claimant shall be given preference;
  - 3. If a purchasing claimant's designated representative's claim and an owner's claim or a claimant's designated representative's claim are received by the State Treasurer on the same day and all claims are complete, the purchasing claimant's designated representative's claim shall be given preference;
  - 4. If more than one buyer's claim received by the State

    Treasurer is complete or made complete on the same day, the buyer

    that demonstrates that its agreement complies with this act and was

    executed first shall receive preference;
  - 5. If more than one claim by a claimant's designated representative received by the State Treasurer is complete or made complete the same day, the claimant's designated representative that has agreed to receive the lowest fee shall be given preference. If two or more such claimant's designated representatives are charging the same lowest fee, the claimant's designated representative that demonstrates its agreement complies with this act and was executed first shall be given preference; and

- 6. Nothing in this subsection shall extinguish, impair, or
  affect any private right of action that one person may have against
  another for breach of contract, tort, or other statutory or commonlaw cause of action; provided, however the State Treasurer shall not
  be liable to any person for acting in conformance with this act and
  its rules and regulations.
  - G. The State Treasurer shall maintain an electronic copy of all records related to the property received by the State Treasurer.

    Such records shall be retained pursuant to the State Treasurer's retention schedules, which shall provide for a retention period of no less than ten (10) years.
  - H. The State Treasurer shall consider any claim filed under this act, and in rendering a determination on the merits of any such claim, shall rely on the applicable statutes, regulations, and relevant court decisions and may hold a hearing and receive evidence concerning it. If a hearing is held, the State Treasurer shall prepare a finding and a decision in writing on each claim filed, stating the substance of any evidence heard by the State Treasurer and the reasons for the State Treasurer's decision. The decision shall be a public record.
  - I. If the claim is allowed, the State Treasurer shall make payment forthwith. The claim shall be paid without deduction for costs of notice in his or her sole discretion, the State Treasurer may hold a hearing and receive evidence concerning any unclaimed

- property claim filed under this act. If a hearing is held, the

  State Treasurer, or his or her designated representative, shall

  consider evidence that would be admissible in contested cases under

  the Oklahoma Administrative Procedure Act. In any proceeding for

  determination of a claim to property, the burden shall be upon the

  claimant, or the claimant's agent, including a claimant's designated

  representative, to establish entitlement to the property by a
  - J. If a hearing is held, the State Treasurer, or his or her designated representative, shall prepare a finding and a decision in writing on each claim filed, stating the substance of any evidence heard by him or her and the reasons for the decision. The decision shall be a public record and deemed the final agency decision.
  - K. If the claim is approved, the State Treasurer shall make payment pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection D of this section.

    Claims shall be paid without deduction for costs of notice.
- SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 60 O.S. 2021, Section 674.1, is amended to read as follows:
- 19 Section 674.1 A. No person who:

preponderance of evidence.

21 property, tangible or intangible, held pursuant to the Uniform
22 Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act that such claimant may be
23 entitled to claim such unclaimed property; or

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- 1 2. Files a claim for any funds or other property, tangible or 2 intangible, on behalf of a claimant of such funds or property, shall contract for or receive from the claimant, for services, an 3 4 amount that exceeds twenty-five percent (25%) of the value of the funds or property recovered To protect the interests of owners of 5 unclaimed property, the State Treasurer shall develop and publish a 6 7 form entitled "Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement", and a form 8 entitled "Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement".
  - B. A claimant's designated representative shall use the

    Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement or Unclaimed Property Purchase

    Agreement to file a claim with the State Treasurer. Except as

    provided in subsection F of this section, the failure of a

    claimant's designated representative to use such agreement or

    agreements as required by this subsection shall void the claimant's

    designated representative's claim.
  - C. The Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement and the Unclaimed

    Property Purchase Agreement shall include and disclose the

    following:
  - 1. The total dollar amount of unclaimed property accounts claimed or sold if the information provided by the holder contains the value of the unclaimed property;
- 22 <u>2. If the information provided by the holder contains the value</u>
  23 <u>of the unclaimed property, the total percentage of all authorized</u>
  24 fees and costs to be paid to the claimant's designated

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- 1 representative or the percentage of the value of the property to be
  2 paid as net gain to the selling claimant's designated
- 3 representative;
- 4 3. If the information provided by the holder contains the value
- 5 of the unclaimed property, the total dollar amount to be deducted
- 6 and received from the claimant as fees and costs by the claimant's
- 7 designated representative or the total net dollar amount to be
- 8 | received by the selling claimant's designated representative. If
- 9 the information provided by the holder does not contain the value of
- 10 | the unclaimed property, the form shall require the claimant's
- 11 designated representative to identify the percentage of the net
- 12 | value of the claim that is due to the claimant's designated
- 13 representative;
- 14 4. If the information provided by the holder contains the value
- 15 of the unclaimed property, the net dollar amount to be received by
- 16 | the claimant or the seller;
- 5. For each account claimed, the unclaimed property account
- 18 number;
- 19 6. The name, address, email address, phone number, and
- 20 registration identification number of the claimant's designated
- 21 representative; and
- 7. The manual signature of the claimant or seller and the date
- 23 | signed, affixed on the agreement by the claimant or seller;
- 24 provided, however, that an electronic signature shall be sufficient

- so long as any electronic signature uses an electronic signature product and protocol authorized by the State Treasurer;
  - D. 1. The total fees and costs under an Unclaimed Property

    Recovery Agreement may not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the

    claimed amount or the unclaimed property's value, whichever is

    lower. If the total fees and costs exceed twenty-five percent

    (25%), the fees and costs shall be reduced to twenty-five percent

    (25%) and the net balance shall be remitted directly by the State

    Treasurer to the claimant. Such twenty-five percent (25%)

    compensation limit shall not apply:
    - <u>a.</u> <u>if a judicial order, judgment, or decree to document</u> <u>entitlement is required, or</u>
    - <u>b.</u> <u>to Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreements.</u>
- 2. For an Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement form, proof
  that the purchaser has made payment shall be filed with the State

  Treasurer along with the claim. If proof of payment is not

  provided, the claim is void. Proof may be demonstrated by a receipt

  signed by claimant and claimant's designated representative, if any;

  a copy of check issued; bank wire confirmation; or other information

  provided by the State Treasurer's rules and regulations.
- E. The Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement and the Unclaimed

  Property Purchase Agreement may not create an assignment of any

  portion of unclaimed property held by the State Treasurer other than

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- 1 that property described in a duly executed Unclaimed Property
  2 Purchase Agreement.
- F. 1. When a claimant's designated representative submits a 3 4 claim for which the total known value of the claimant's unclaimed 5 property in the custody of the State Treasurer exceeds Two Thousand 6 Dollars (\$2,000.00), the claimant's designated representative may 7 add terms and conditions to the Unclaimed Property Recovery 8 Agreement or to an Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement in 9 accordance with the process outlined in this subsection, so long as 10 the additional terms and conditions are:
  - a. not inconsistent with the requirements of this section,
  - <u>b.</u> <u>printed in at least ten-point font, and</u>
  - <u>Property Recovery Agreement or the Unclaimed Property</u>
    <u>Purchase Agreement as published by the State Treasurer</u>
    pursuant to this section.
  - 2. The State Treasurer shall develop and publish an Unclaimed

    Property Agreement Addendum form for use by a claimant and

    claimant's designated representative to indicate whether he or she

    dispute or agree with the terms and conditions added to the

    Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement or the Unclaimed Property

    Purchase Agreement pursuant to this subsection. The Unclaimed

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Property Agreement Addendum form shall be published online and shall be downloadable.

- 3. For claims made under this subsection, the Unclaimed Property Agreement Addendum shall be completed, signed by both the claimant and the claimant's designated representative, and filed with the Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement or the Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement. Any terms and conditions added to an Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement or the Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement shall be void in the absence of a duly executed Unclaimed Property Agreement Addendum. An electronic signature shall be sufficient so long as the signatory uses an electronic signature product and protocol authorized by the State Treasurer.
  - 4. The State Treasurer may file an interpleader action in the

    District Court of Oklahoma County if either the claimant or the

    claimant's designated representative indicate on the Unclaimed

    Property Agreement Addendum that a dispute exists regarding the

    terms and conditions added to the Unclaimed Property Recovery

    Agreement or the Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement. Appropriate

    notice of the interpleader action shall be provided to the claimant

    and the claimant's designated representative. The cost of the

    interpleader action shall be divided between the claimant and the

    claimant's designated representative.
  - 5. Except as provided in this act, Unclaimed Property Recovery

    Agreements and Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreements authorized by

- 1 this subsection shall be deemed the same as those without additional
  2 terms and conditions.
  - G. The State Treasurer shall not be administratively, civilly, or criminally liable for any property or funds distributed pursuant to this section, provided such distribution is made in good faith.
  - H. If the funds or property involved are mineral proceeds, the amount for services shall not include a portion of the underlying minerals or any production payment, overriding royalty, or similar payment.

In the event that the claimant of such funds or property is deceased and did not personally agree to the fee in writing, a fee for recovery can only be collected from each identified heir, devisee or legatee that has affirmatively agreed to that fee in writing.

- J. I. The provisions of this section subsection H of this section shall apply to contracts executed on or after November 1, 2021.
- SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 60 O.S. 2021, Section 674.2, is amended to read as follows:
  - Section 674.2 If any person claims an interest in any property delivered to the State Treasurer in which the owner of the property is determined to be deceased, the State Treasurer shall not pay over or deliver to the claimant property as provided in Section 651 et

seq. of this title, unless the claimant provides the following applicable items:

- 1. <u>a.</u> A certified copy of letters of administration or letters testamentary from the probate of the estate of the decedent naming the claimant as the personal representative of the estate of the decedent; or
- 2. <u>b.</u> A certified copy of the decree of distribution from the probate of the estate of the decedent determining the claimant to be entitled to receive such property through the estate of the decedent;
- 3. 2. If the owner of the property executed an inter vivos trust which provided for the disposition of the property of the owner, a properly verified notarized certification of the copy of the trust instrument which shows the claimant is the trustee or beneficiary of the trust or otherwise entitled to the property reported;
- 4. 3. If the property is derived from real property located in Oklahoma this state, a certified copy of a final decree quieting title of the decedent's real property, determining the claimant to be the successor in interest of decedent's ownership interest;
- 5. 4. If the value of the property is Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) or more, a certified copy of a record that provides evidence of the death certificate of

the owner of the property <u>issued by any government authority who</u> maintains such records;

6. 5. If the value of the property at the time the claim is paid is Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) or less, a signed affidavit executed by the claimant stating that the claimant is entitled to receive such property, the reason the claimant is entitled to receive such property, that there has been no probate of the estate of the deceased owner, that no probate is contemplated and that claimant will indemnify the state for any loss, including attorney fees, should another claimant assert a prior right to the property.

The State Treasurer may require other reasonable documentation, in addition to the above items, to determine the validity of the claim.

SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 674.3 of Title 60, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Every claimant's designated representative and buyer of unclaimed property shall keep and use in his or her business such books, accounts, and records of the business conducted under this act to enable the State Treasurer to determine whether such person is in compliance with this act and the rules adopted by the State Treasurer under this act. Every claimant's designated representative and buyer of unclaimed property shall preserve such

- books, accounts, and records, including every Unclaimed Property

  Recovery Agreement or Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement between

  the owner and such claimant's representative or buyer, for at least

  three (3) years after the date of the initial agreement.
  - B. Upon request by the State Treasurer, a claimant's designated representative or buyer of unclaimed property shall provide all books, accounts, and records maintained in compliance with subsection A of this section to the State Treasurer for examination.
  - C. Electronic documents shall satisfy the requirements of this section.
  - SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 674.4 of Title 60, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
  - A. In order to file claims as a claimant's designated representative, receive a distribution of fees and costs from the State Treasurer, or obtain information pertaining to unclaimed property held by the State Treasurer, a claimant's designated representative shall register with the State Treasurer by paying a One Thousand Two Hundred Dollar (\$1,200.00) registration fee and completing a form published by the State Treasurer soliciting the information the State Treasurer deems reasonably necessary to administer the requirements of this act, including, but not limited to:

- 1. The business address and telephone number of the registrant and, if applicable, the registrant's employer;
- 2. Tax identification number of the registrant and, if applicable, the registrant's employer;

- 3. A legible copy of the registrant's current driver license showing the full name and current address of such person. If a current driver license is not available, another form of photo identification as prescribed by the State Treasurer shall be filed with the State Treasurer;
- 4. The names of agents or employees, if any, who are designated to submit claims on behalf of the registrant, together with a legible copy of their driver license showing their full name and address or other form of photo identification as prescribed by the State Treasurer; and
- 5. Sufficient information to enable the State Treasurer to disburse fee payments to the registrant.
- B. The registrant's designated employee authorized to submit claims on behalf of the registrant shall submit to a background check.
  - C. The knowing submission of false information by any registrant may be punishable by law.
- D. A claimant's designated representative is ineligible for registration if, within the immediately preceding twenty (20) years, the designated representative, or such designated representative's

- officer, owner, or employee designated to act on behalf of the
  representative, was convicted of a misdemeanor or felony involving
  dishonesty, deceit, or fraud, or adjudications of responsibility in
  civil actions pertaining to breach of fiduciary duties.
- 5 If a material change in the status of a registration occurs, a registrant shall, within thirty (30) days, provide the State 6 Treasurer with the updated documentation and information in writing. Material changes include but are not limited to a designated agent or employee ceasing to act on behalf of the designating person; 10 changes in any of the contact information provided pursuant to this 11 section; any criminal convictions for crimes, whether felonies or 12 misdemeanors, involving dishonesty, deceit, or fraud; or 13 adjudications of responsibility in civil actions pertaining to 14 breach of fiduciary duties. Failure to comply with this subsection 15 shall result in immediate revocation of the registration as a 16 claimant's designated representative.
  - F. A claimant's designated representative may not register under or use a business name that might lead a reasonable person to conclude that the representative, firm, or employer is an agent of the United States, or an agency thereof, or a state or an agency or political subdivision of a state.
  - G. Registration by a claimant's designated representative shall have a four-year term and may be renewed if the claimant's designated representative continues to meet the applicable criteria.

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Upon renewal, a claimant's designated representative shall pay a renewal fee of One Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$1,200.00).

- H. A duly registered claimant's designated representative is authorized to submit claims and respond to requests for additional information on behalf of a claimant and apparent owner, and to receive information related to accounts claimed directly from the State Treasurer.
- I. Any decision by the State Treasurer or the State Treasurer's authorized agent to deny, suspend, revoke, or not renew a claimant's designated representative's registration shall set forth the basis for such action. An applicant for registration or renewal aggrieved by any decision of the State Treasurer or the State Treasurer's designated representative is entitled, upon request, to a hearing before the State Treasurer or the State Treasurer's designated representative. The request shall set forth with specificity the reasons for the request and the manner of relief sought.
- J. Hearings conducted under subsection I of this section shall be conducted under the terms and conditions of the Oklahoma

  Administrative Procedure Act.
- SECTION 10. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 674.5 of Title 60, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. The State Treasurer shall provide a registered claimant's designated representative with access to a downloadable or

- deliverable, searchable and sortable database for all unclaimed accounts containing the following information, if provided by the holder:
- 1. Name of the apparent owner. If the property is from an insurance policy, the name of the insured and beneficiary, if applicable;
- 2. Last known address of the apparent owner. If the apparent owner is the insured under an insurance policy, the address of the beneficiary, if applicable;
  - 3. Owner account relation utilized by the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators;
- 12 4. Amount of cash, if applicable;

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- 5. For unliquidated securities or mutual funds account, the
  number of shares, the name of the issuer of the security or mutual
  funds account, and the Committee on Uniform Securities
  Identification Procedures number, if available;
  - 6. For safe-deposit box contents, descriptions that are substantially similar to those utilized by the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators;
- 7. Property type descriptions that are substantially similar to those utilized by the National Association of Unclaimed Property
  Administrators;
- 23 8. Date of last activity;
- 9. Year property was reported to the State Treasurer; and

- 10. Holder's name and contact information.
- B. A claimant's designated representative who receives
- 3 unclaimed property information from the State Treasurer is
- 4 prohibited from distributing such information except for the purpose
- 5 of soliciting owners of unclaimed property to offer claim services.
- 6 The State Treasurer may refer a suspected violation of this act to
- 7 | the Attorney General for prosecution.
- 8 C. Information identified in subsection A of this section shall
- 9 | not be deemed confidential to registered claimant's designated
- 10 | representatives.

- 11 SECTION 11. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
- 12 | in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 674.6 of Title 60, unless there
- 13 | is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- 14 A. The following acts are violations of this act and shall
- 15 | constitute grounds for an administrative enforcement action by the
- 16 | State Treasurer:
- 17 | 1. Failure to comply with any provision of this act, any rule
- 18 or order adopted under this act, or any written agreement entered
- 19 | into with the State Treasurer;
- 20 2. Fraud, misrepresentation, deceit, or gross negligence in any
- 21 | matter within the scope of this act;
- 3. Fraudulent misrepresentation, circumvention, or concealment
- of any matter required to be stated or furnished to an owner or

- 1 apparent owner under this act, regardless of reliance by or damage
  2 to the owner or apparent owner;
  - 4. Willful imposition of illegal or excessive charges in any unclaimed property transaction;

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- 5. False, deceptive, or misleading solicitation or advertising within the scope of this act;
- 6. Failure to maintain, preserve, and keep available for examination all books, accounts, or other documents required by this act, by any rule or order adopted under this act, or by any agreement entered into with the State Treasurer under this act;
- 7. Refusal to permit inspection of books and records in an investigation or examination by the State Treasurer;
  - 8. Criminal conduct in the course of a person's business;
- 9. Failure to timely pay any fee or fine imposed or assessed under this act or any rule adopted under this act;
- 10. Requesting or receiving compensation for notifying a person of his or her unclaimed property or assisting another person in filing a claim for unclaimed property, or entering into, or making a solicitation to enter into, an agreement to file a claim for unclaimed property owned by another, or a contract or agreement to purchase unclaimed property, unless such person is registered with the State Treasurer under this act; provided, however, that this paragraph shall not apply to a person who has been granted a durable power of attorney to convey and receive all of the real and personal

- 1 | property of the owner, is the court-appointed guardian of the owner,
- 2 has been employed as an attorney or qualified representative to
- 3 | contest the State Treasurer's denial of a claim, or has been
- 4 employed as an attorney to probate the estate of the owner or an
- 5 heir or legatee of the owner;
- 6 11. Failure to authorize the release of records in the
- 7 possession of a third party after being requested to do so by the
- 8 | State Treasurer regarding a pending examination or investigation;
- 9 and
- 10 | 12. Receipt or solicitation of consideration to be paid in
- 11 | advance of the approval of a claim under this act.
- B. Upon a finding by the State Treasurer that any person has
- 13 | committed any of the acts set forth in subsection A of this section,
- 14 | the State Treasurer may enter an order:
- 15 1. Requiring such person to cease and desist or take corrective
- 16 action as specified by the State Treasurer;
- 2. Revoking a registration previously granted during which time
- 18 | the registrant may not reapply for a registration under this act;
- 19 3. Placing a registrant on probation for a period and subject
- 20 to such conditions as the State Treasurer may specify;
- 4. Placing permanent restrictions or conditions upon issuance
- 22 or maintenance of a registration;

5. Imposing an administrative fine not to exceed Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each such act which shall be retained by the State Treasurer for purposes of administering this act; or

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- 6. Prohibiting any person from being a director, officer, agent, employee, or ultimate equitable owner of a ten percent (10%) or greater interest in an employer of a claimant's designated representative.
- C. A claimant's designated representative is subject to the disciplinary actions specified in subsection B of this section for violations of subsection A of this section by an agent or employee of the registrant's employer if the registrant knew or should have known that such agent or employee was violating any provision of this act.
- D. A person aggrieved by any enforcement action imposed by the State Treasurer is entitled, upon request, to a hearing before the State Treasurer or the State Treasurer's designated representative which shall be conducted in accordance with the Oklahoma Administrative Procedure Act. Such hearing request shall set forth with specificity the reasons for the request and the manner of relief sought.
- E. The State Treasurer may seek any appropriate civil legal remedy available to it by filing a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction against any person who has, directly or through a claimant's representative, wrongfully submitted a claim as

1	the ultimate owner of property and improperly received funds from
2	the State Treasurer in violation of this act.
3	F. In addition to any other powers conferred upon it to enforce
4	and administer the provisions of this act, the State Treasurer may
5	refer to the Attorney General for further investigation any conduct
6	the State Treasurer believes, in the State Treasurer's sole
7	discretion, may warrant civil or criminal enforcement.
8	SECTION 12. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024."
9	Passed the House of Representatives the 24th day of April, 2024.
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12	Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives
13	Representatives
14	Passed the Senate the day of, 2024.
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17	Presiding Officer of the Senate
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1	ENGROSSED SENATE
2	BILL NO. 1534 By: Weaver of the Senate
	and
3	O'Donnell of the House
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6	An Act relating to the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act; amending 60 O.S. 2021, Sections 661, 662, and
7	674.2, which relate to reports of abandoned property,
8	notice and publication, and property delivered to State Treasurer; authorizing electronic communication
9	under certain circumstances; increasing value for property for which the State Treasurer is not
10	required to publish notice; increasing value of property for which claimant is required to provide
11	certain documentation; updating statutory language; and providing an effective date.
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14	BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:
15	SECTION 13. AMENDATORY 60 O.S. 2021, Section 661, is
16	amended to read as follows:
17	Section 661. A. A person holding property, tangible or
18	intangible, presumed abandoned and subject to custody as unclaimed
19	property under the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act shall report to
20	the State Treasurer concerning the property as provided in this
21	section.
22	B. The report must shall be verified and must shall include:
23	1. The name, if known, and last-known address, if any, of each
24	person appearing from the records of the holder to be the owner of

property of the value of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) or more presumed abandoned under the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act and items of value under Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), reported in the aggregate, except property which is one of a recurring number of continuous payments, including, but not limited to, royalties, annuities, dividends, distributions and other sums presumed abandoned pursuant to subsection D of Section 655 of this title, which shall be reported in the same manner as property with a value of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) or more;

- 2. In the case of unclaimed funds of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) or more 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;
- 3. In the case of the contents of a safe deposit box or other safekeeping repository or of other tangible personal property, a description of the property and the place where it is held, which may be inspected by the State Treasurer, and any amounts, including offsets for drilling costs and rent, owing to the holder;
- 4. The description of the property, including type and identifying number if any, and the amount appearing from the records to be due;

- 5. The date when the property became payable, demandable or returnable, and the date of the last transaction with the owner with respect to the property;
- 6. In the case of a cashier's check, if known, the names and last-known addresses of the payee(s) all payees, the payor(s) all payors and the purchaser(s) all purchasers; and
  - 7. Any other information reasonably required by the Treasurer.
- C. 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 if the name of the holder has changed while holding the property, the holder shall file with the report all known names and addresses of each previous holder of the property.
- D. The report <u>must shall</u> be filed before November 1 of each year for property reportable as of the preceding July 1, but the report of any life insurance company <u>must shall</u> be filed before May 1 of each year for property reportable as of the preceding March 1. The State Treasurer may postpone the reporting date upon written request by any person required to file a report.
- E. Not more than one hundred twenty (120) days before filing the report required by this section, the holder in possession of property presumed abandoned and subject to custody as unclaimed property under the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act shall send written notice to the apparent owner at the owner's last-known address

- informing the owner that the holder is in possession of property subject to the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act if:
  - 1. The holder has in the records of the holder an address for the apparent owner which the holder's records do not disclose to be inaccurate;
- 2. The claim of the apparent owner is not barred by the statute of limitations; and
  - 3. The property has a value of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) or more, or the property has a value of less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) and is one of a recurring number of continuous payments, including but not limited to, royalties, annuities, dividends, distributions and other recurring sums presumed abandoned pursuant to subsection D of Section 655 of this title. The holder is not required to send written notice to the owner if the holder has previously attempted to communicate with the owner, or otherwise exercised due diligence to ascertain the whereabouts of the owner. Communication shall include written notice and, if initiated by the apparent owner, electronic mail and other forms of electronic correspondence. The mailing of notice by first-class mail to the last-known address of the owner by the holder shall constitute compliance with this subsection and, if done, no further act on the part of the holder shall be necessary.

- F. Reports filed by a holder shall remain confidential except for that information required to be subject to public inspection pursuant to the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act.
- G. The Treasurer may require a holder reporting fifteen or more items of property pursuant to this section to file the report online. The Treasurer shall promulgate rules necessary to carry out provisions for online filing.
- 8 SECTION 14. AMENDATORY 60 O.S. 2021, Section 662, is 9 amended to read as follows:
  - Section 662. A. The State Treasurer shall cause at least two notices to be published during the year following the report required by Section 661 of this title in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the county in this state in which is located the last-known address of any person to be named in the notice.

    Different legal newspapers of general circulation may be used for each notice. If no address is listed or if the address is outside this state, the notice must shall be published in the county within this state which is the principal place of business of the holder of the abandoned property, or in an Oklahoma a newspaper in this state which the State Treasurer believes most likely to be seen by the owner of the property or by heirs of the owner.
- B. The published notice must shall be entitled "Notice of Names of Persons Appearing to be Owners of Abandoned Property", and contain:

- 1. The names in alphabetical order and last-known address, if any, of persons listed in the report and entitled to notice within the county as specified in subsection A of this section;
- 2. A statement that information concerning the property and the name and last-known address of the holder may be obtained by any person possessing an interest in the property by addressing an inquiry to the State Treasurer; and
- 3. A statement that the property is in the custody of the State Treasurer and all claims must be directed to the State Treasurer.
- C. The State Treasurer is not required to publish in the notice any items of less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) Two Hundred Fifty

  Dollars (\$250.00) unless the State Treasurer considers their publication to be in the public interest.
- D. The State Treasurer shall provide electronic access to the new names and last-known addresses of all persons reported to the State Treasurer as owners of unclaimed property on an Internet web site. The State Treasurer shall take reasonable steps to publicize the existence of this web site and shall publish an advertisement no less than once each calendar quarter in a legal newspaper of general circulation in each county of this state.
- 21 SECTION 15. AMENDATORY 60 O.S. 2021, Section 674.2, is 22 amended to read as follows:
- Section 674.2. If any person claims an interest in any property delivered to the State Treasurer in which the owner of the property

- is determined to be deceased, the State Treasurer shall not pay over or deliver to the claimant property as provided in Section 651 et seq. of this title, unless the claimant provides the following items:
  - 1. A certified copy of letters of administration or letters testamentary from the probate of the estate of the decedent naming the claimant as the personal representative of the estate of the decedent;
  - 2. A certified copy of the decree of distribution from the probate of the estate of the decedent determining the claimant to be entitled to receive such property through the estate of the decedent;
  - 3. If the owner of the property executed an inter vivos trust which provided for the disposition of the property of the owner, a properly verified copy of the trust instrument which shows the claimant is the trustee or beneficiary of the trust or otherwise entitled to the property reported;
  - 4. If the property is derived from real property located in Oklahoma this state, a certified copy of a final decree quieting title of the decedent's real property, determining the claimant to be the successor in interest of decedent's ownership interest;
  - 5. If the value of the property is Five Thousand Dollars

    (\$5,000.00) Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) or more, a certified copy of the death certificate of the owner of the property;

1	6. If the value of the property <u>at the time the claim is paid</u>
2	is <del>Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)</del> <u>Twenty-five Thousand Dollars</u>
3	(\$25,000.00) or less, a signed affidavit executed by the claimant
4	stating that the claimant is entitled to receive such property, the
5	reason the claimant is entitled to receive such property, that there
6	has been no probate of the estate of the deceased owner, that no
7	probate is contemplated and that claimant will indemnify the state
8	for any loss, including attorney fees, should another claimant
9	assert a prior right to the property.
10	The State Treasurer may require other reasonable documentation,
11	in addition to the above items, to determine the validity of the
12	claim.
13	SECTION 16. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.
14	Passed the Senate the 20th day of February, 2024.
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16	Durad dina Office and the County
17	Presiding Officer of the Senate
18	Passed the House of Representatives the day of,
19	2024.
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22	Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives
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