

1 1. "Lender" means a person whose name appears in the records of
2 the museum as the person legally entitled to property held by or on
3 loan to the museum;

4 2. "Lender's last known address" means a description of the
5 physical or mailing address of the lender, as shown on the museum's
6 records pertaining to the property on loan from the lender, which is
7 sufficient for the purpose of delivering mail;

8 3. "Loan", "loaned", and "on loan" mean all deposits of
9 property with a museum which are not accompanied by a transfer of
10 title to the property;

11 4. "Museum" means an organization which uses a professional
12 staff or the equivalent, whether paid or unpaid, that is primarily
13 engaged in the acquisition, care, and exhibition to the public of
14 objects, interactive displays, and exhibits owned or used by the
15 organization. Museums shall include organizations that:

- 16 a. are organized on a permanent or regular basis for
- 17 essentially educational or aesthetic purposes,
- 18 b. own or use tangible objects, either animate or
- 19 inanimate, care for such objects, and exhibit such
- 20 objects to the general public on a regular basis at or
- 21 in facilities owned or operated by such organizations,
- 22 and
- 23 c. provide educational and cultural programming;

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1 5. "Person" means an individual, association, trust
2 partnership, corporation, or similar organization having a legal
3 interest in property in the possession of a museum;

4 6. "Property" means all tangible objects, animate and
5 inanimate, under a museum's care which have intrinsic scientific,
6 historic, artistic, or cultural value; and

7 7. "Undocumented property" means property in the possession of
8 a museum for which the museum cannot determine the person with legal
9 interest by referencing the museum's records.

10 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2002 of Title 60, unless there
12 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 A. A museum may acquire legal title to undocumented property
14 held by a museum for seven (7) years or longer, verifiable through
15 written records, if there is no valid claim or contact by any person
16 in the following manner:

17 1. The museum shall publish a notice by publication in a
18 newspaper of record in the county of the museum. This notice shall
19 include:

- 20 a. a brief and general description of the property,
21 b. the date or approximate date of the acquisition by the
22 museum, if known,
23 c. notice of the intent of the museum to claim title if
24 no valid claims are made within ninety (90) days from

1 the date of the second notice prescribed in paragraph
2 2 of this subsection, and

3 d. the name and address of the museum representative to
4 contact for more information or to make a claim; and

5 2. If no valid claim is made after the ninetieth day, the
6 museum shall publish a second notice by publication in the same
7 manner as prescribed in paragraph 1 of this subsection and shall
8 include the same provisions.

9 B. If the ninety-day notice period prescribed in subparagraph c
10 of paragraph 1 of subsection A of this section lapses without
11 submission of a valid claim, clear and unrestricted title shall be
12 transferred to the museum as of the date described in subparagraph c
13 of paragraph 1 of subsection A of this section.

14 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2003 of Title 53, unless there
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. A museum may acquire legal title to loaned property pursuant
18 to this section. Upon the expiration date of the loan, the museum
19 shall attempt to notify the lender in writing to return the loaned
20 property. If there is no written contact between the lender and the
21 museum for two (2) years following the expiration of the loan, the
22 museum shall send a notice by certified mail, return receipt
23 requested, to the lender's last known address. The notice shall
24 contain a statement that the loan is now terminated as well as all

1 information required in the notice under paragraphs 1 and 2 of
2 subsection A of Section 2 of this act. Notice is deemed to be
3 provided if the museum receives proof of receipt within thirty (30)
4 days after mailing the notice. If proof of delivery of the notice
5 is not received within thirty (30) days from the date the notice was
6 mailed, the museum shall publish a notice by publication in a
7 newspaper of record in the county of the museum.

8 B. If the requirements of subsection A of this section are met,
9 the museum may acquire title to the loaned property by sending a
10 notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the lender's
11 last known address.

12 C. After title to the property is transferred to the museum,
13 any person having legal interest in the property shall have two (2)
14 years to bring an action against the museum to claim the property.
15 At the end of this two-year period, no action or proceeding may be
16 brought against the museum or its employees or agents by a lender
17 for any good-faith action taken by the museum pursuant to this
18 chapter.

19 D. In order to take title to a loaned property pursuant to this
20 act, a museum shall have the following obligations to a lender:

21 1. The museum shall keep written records regarding the property
22 for at least two (2) years prior to the date of taking title
23 pursuant to this section;

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1 2. The museum shall keep written records on all loans acquired.
2 Records shall contain the owner's name, address, phone number, the
3 duration of the loan period, beginning date of the loan period, and
4 an itemized list of property being loaned;

5 3. The museum shall notify a lender of property to the museum
6 of a museum's change of address or dissolution;

7 4. The museum shall inform a lender of property, at the time
8 the loan is made, of state laws governing unclaimed property; and

9 5. Upon expiration of the loan, the museum shall attempt to
10 contact the lender to return the loaned property by phone,
11 electronic mail, and by certified mail.

12 E. Any person who lends property to a museum shall notify the
13 museum of a change of address or of a change in ownership of the
14 loaned property to ensure the retention of rights to the loaned
15 property.

16 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2004 of Title 53, unless there
18 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 A. Unless there is a written loan agreement to the contrary, a
20 museum may apply conservation measures to or dispose of property on
21 loan to the museum without a lender's permission if immediate action
22 is required to protect the property on loan or to protect other
23 property in the custody of the museum, or the property on loan has
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1 become a hazard to the health and safety of the public or of the
2 museum's staff, and:

3 1. The museum cannot reach the lender at the lender's last
4 known address of record so that the museum and the lender can
5 promptly agree on a solution; or

6 2. The lender will not agree to the protective measures the
7 museum recommends and is unwilling or unable to terminate the loan
8 and retrieve the property.

9 B. If a museum applies conservation measures to or disposes of
10 property under subsection A of this section, the museum shall:

11 1. Have a lien on the property and on the proceeds from any
12 disposition of the property for the costs incurred by the museum;
13 and

14 2. Not be liable for injury to or loss of the property if the
15 museum:

16 a. had a reasonable belief at the time the action was
17 taken that the action was necessary to protect the
18 property on loan or other property in the custody of
19 the museum, or that the property on loan constituted a
20 hazard to the health and safety of the public or the
21 museum's staff, and

22 b. exercised reasonable care in the choice and
23 application of the conservation measures.

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1 C. A museum may apply conservation measures to or dispose of
2 undocumented property in the possession of the museum if immediate
3 action is required to protect the property or to protect other
4 property in the custody of the museum, or the property has become a
5 hazard to the health and safety of the public or of the museum's
6 staff.

7 D. If a museum applies conservation measures to or disposes of
8 undocumented property, the museum:

9 1. May impose a lien on the undocumented property and on the
10 proceeds from any disposition of the property for the costs incurred
11 by the museum; and

12 2. Is not liable for injury to or loss of the undocumented
13 property if the museum:

14 a. had a reasonable belief at the time the action was
15 taken that the action was necessary to protect the
16 property or other property in the custody of the
17 museum, or that the property constituted a hazard to
18 the health and safety of the public or the museum's
19 staff, and

20 b. exercised reasonable care in the choice and
21 application of the conservation measures.

22 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2005 of Title 53, unless there
24 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. An action shall not be brought against a museum for damages
2 because of injury to or loss of property loaned to the museum more
3 than two (2) years from the date the museum gives the lender or
4 person with legal interest notice of the injury or loss or two (2)
5 years from the date of the injury or loss, whichever occurs earlier.

6 B. An action shall not be brought against a museum to recover
7 property more than two (2) years after the date the museum gives the
8 lender or person with legal interest notice of its intent to acquire
9 the property.

10 C. An action shall not be brought against a museum to recover
11 property on loan more than two (2) years from the date of the last
12 written contact between the lender or person with legal interest and
13 the museum as evidenced by the museum's records.

14 D. A lender is considered to have donated loaned property to
15 the museum if the lender fails to file an action to recover the
16 property on loan to the museum within the time periods specified in
17 subsections A through C of this section.

18 E. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections C and D of
19 this section, a lender who was not given notice as provided in this
20 act, and who proves that the museum received an adequate notice of
21 intent to preserve an interest in loaned property within the two (2)
22 years immediately preceding the filing of an action to recover the
23 property, may recover the property or, if the property has been
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1 disposed of, the reasonable value of the property at the time it was
2 disposed of plus interest at the legal rate.

3 F. A museum is not liable at any time, in the absence of a
4 court order, for returning property to the original lender even if a
5 person other than the lender has filed a notice of intent to
6 preserve an interest in property. If a person claims competing
7 interests in property in the possession of a museum, the burden is
8 upon the claimant to prove the interest in an action in equity
9 initiated by a claimant. A museum is not liable at any time for
10 returning property to an uncontested claimant who produced
11 reasonable proof of ownership or the existence of a security
12 interest.

13 G. Loaned property in the possession of a museum at the time of
14 the owner's death, which would otherwise escheat to the state, shall
15 not escheat but shall be property of the museum to which it is
16 loaned.

17 SECTION 6. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

18 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC
19 DEVELOPMENT, dated - 04/17/2025 - DO PASS.
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