

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1990

Legislative Document

No. 27

H.P. 24

House of Representatives, December 10, 1990

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative LIBBY of Kennebunk.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Disposition of Lost Goods.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

4 Sec. 1. 33 MRSA §1051 is repealed and the following enacted
in its place:

6 §1051. Duty of finder; value of \$300 or more

8 1. Value of \$300 or more. When the owner of lost money or
10 goods is not known and the value of the money or goods is \$300 or
12 more, the finder of the lost money or goods shall, within 7 days
14 of finding the money or goods:

16 A. Give written notice to the clerk of the municipality in
18 which the money or goods were found; and

20 B. Post a notice in a public place in the municipality
22 indicating that the money or goods were found.

24 2. Value of \$500 or more. When the owner of lost money or
26 goods is not known and the value of the money or goods is \$500 or
28 more, the finder shall:

30 A. Give and post notice as required by subsection 1; and

32 B. Within one month of finding the money or goods, publish
34 a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the
36 municipality.

38 Sec. 2. 33 MRSA §1053 is amended to read:

40 §1053. Appraisal

42 Every finder of lost goods of the value of \$500 or more or
44 stray beasts of the value of \$10 or more shall, within 2 months
46 after finding and before using them ~~the goods or beasts~~ to their
48 disadvantage, procure a warrant from the ~~town~~ municipal clerk or
50 a justice of the peace, directed to 2 persons appointed by said
52 ~~the~~ clerk or justice, not interested except as inhabitants of the
~~town~~ municipality, returnable at said ~~the~~ clerk's office within 7
days from its date, to appraise said ~~the~~ goods under oath.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Under current law, a finder of lost money or goods has a duty to give and post certain notices if the property has a value of \$3 or more and an additional duty to publish notice if the value is \$10 or more. This bill retains the same duties, but increases the dollar value amounts at which the duties are imposed to \$300 and \$500.