

**DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED STOLEN PROPERTY**  
**Act 54 of 1959**

AN ACT to provide for the disposition and sale of certain stolen property recovered by any county sheriff; and to provide for the disposition of the proceeds of sale and certain other property.

**History:** 1959, Act 54, Eff. Mar. 19, 1960;—Am. 1984, Act 257, Imd. Eff. Nov. 30, 1984.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

**434.171 Recovery of unclaimed stolen property; request for disposition; donation of abandoned or stolen bicycle.**

Sec. 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, if the sheriff of a county has any recovered stolen property, including money, which is unclaimed for 6 months after recovery, he or she shall report that fact to the county board of commissioners, and request authority from the board to dispose of it as provided in this act. If the property is an abandoned or stolen bicycle, the sheriff may request authority from the board to donate the bicycle to a state licensed charitable organization.

**History:** 1959, Act 54, Eff. Mar. 19, 1960;—Am. 1984, Act 257, Imd. Eff. Nov. 30, 1984;—Am. 2006, Act 587, Imd. Eff. Jan. 3, 2007.

**434.172 Action by county board of commissioners; notice of sale; appraisal of money; claim by owner; cancellation of sale.**

Sec. 2. The county board of commissioners shall act upon the request of the sheriff within 6 months after the receipt of the request. If the board approves the request, the sheriff shall publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at least 5 days before the sale. The notice shall describe the property, including money, and shall state the time and place of public sale at which the property may be purchased by the highest bidder. The sheriff may obtain an appraisal to determine whether money, because of age, origin, metal content, or value as a collector's item, has a value other than its face value. Money which does not have a value other than its face value shall not be subject to the public sale provisions contained in this section. Until the date of the sale the property, including money, may be claimed at the sheriff's office. If ownership is proved, the sheriff shall turn the property, including money, over to the owner and cancel the sale insofar as the claimed property is concerned.

**History:** 1959, Act 54, Eff. Mar. 19, 1960;—Am. 1984, Act 257, Imd. Eff. Nov. 30, 1984.

**434.173 Sale; disposition of proceeds.**

Sec. 3. The sheriff shall conduct the sale and shall deposit the proceeds of the sale, and money not subject to public sale, after deducting the cost of the sale, including reasonable appraisal fees, with the county treasurer to the credit of the county general fund.

**History:** 1959, Act 54, Eff. Mar. 19, 1960;—Am. 1984, Act 257, Imd. Eff. Nov. 30, 1984.

**434.174 Filing claim for property after sale; proof; payment to owner; time limitation; liability of sheriff.**

Sec. 4. If within 6 months after the sale, the owner of the property, including an owner of money regardless of whether the money was subject to public sale, files with the county board of commissioners a claim for the property, including money, and proves his or her right to the property, the board shall direct the county treasurer to pay the money or the amount received for the property to the owner. The county board of commissioners shall not approve any claims filed more than 6 months after the sale. Any sheriff disposing of property in the manner provided in this act shall not be liable to the owner of that property.

**History:** 1959, Act 54, Eff. Mar. 19, 1960;—Am. 1984, Act 257, Imd. Eff. Nov. 30, 1984.