

SB175 INTRODUCED



1 SB175
2 6YC4Y3Z-1
3 By Senator Kitchens (N & P)
4 RFD: Local Legislation
5 First Read: 20-Jan-26



A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to Marshall County; to amend Sections 45-48-231.20, 45-48-231.22, and 45-48-231.24, Code of Alabama 1975; and to add Section 45-48-231.27 to the Code of Alabama 1975; to further provide for abandoned and stolen personal property recovered by the sheriff's department.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 45-48-231.20, 45-48-231.22, and 45-48-231.24, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§45-48-231.20

The Sheriff of Marshall County shall sell, at public auction or by Internet auction, abandoned and stolen personal property recovered by the sheriff's department which has remained unclaimed by the owner for a period of 12 consecutive months."

"§45-48-231.22

Except for perishable property sold pursuant to Section ~~45-48-231.01~~ 45-48-431.21, at least every six months, the Sheriff of Marshall County, shall sell at ~~public~~-auction to the highest bidder ~~for cash~~ all abandoned or stolen personal



SB175 INTRODUCED

property ~~which~~ that has been recovered by the sheriff's department, ~~which~~ and that has remained unclaimed by the owner after a period of 12 months. The sale shall be made after notice has been given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in Marshall County once a week for two successive weeks or by posting notice in a conspicuous place at the Marshall County Courthouse for a period of at least 20 days prior to the sale. The notice shall contain the place, date, and time of each auction and a description of each item of personal property to be sold at auction. If publication of the notice is made by publication in the newspaper, the first notice shall run at least 20 days prior to the auction."

"§45-48-231.24

~~Whenever any property is sold at public auction, the sale shall be paid only in cash.~~ A notation in the storage record book shall be made of the sale and of the amount received for ~~the~~ any property sold at auction. The person making the sale shall have the right to reject any ~~and all~~ ~~bids~~ bid if the bid amount is deemed unreasonably low. The sale may continue, from time to time, if no bidders are present."

Section 2. Section 45-48-231.27 is added to the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

§45-48-231.27

(a) (1) The sheriff shall keep and maintain a permanent record of all abandoned or stolen firearms not subject to disposition by general law. The records shall state the description of the firearm; the serial or other identifying



SB175 INTRODUCED

number, if any, of the firearm; and the place where the firearm was recovered. The sheriff shall take reasonable efforts to locate the owner of abandoned or stolen firearms recovered by the sheriff's office, including by notifying the sheriff's offices of surrounding counties.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the term "firearm" shall have the same meaning as provided in Section 13A-8-1.

(b) Unless otherwise provided by law, the sheriff may sell or destroy a firearm if the owner does not claim the firearm within 12 months of the date the sheriff obtained the firearm.

(c) The sheriff may sell a firearm only to gun dealers who have a current federal firearm license on the date of the sale. The sheriff shall establish a procedure to notify gun dealers of a sale. A firearm shall be sold to the gun dealer submitting the highest sealed bid. The proceeds of the sale, after deducting and paying all expenses incurred in the recovery, maintenance, and sale of the firearm, shall be paid to the Office of the Sheriff of Marshall County.

(d) The sheriff may establish a procedure to destroy firearms and may expend necessary funds of the sheriff's office for that purpose.

Section 3. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2026.