

Prior law, the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act, provided for the disposition of various unclaimed property. The state treasurer is defined as the administrator of the Act.

New law provides a procedure for the escheatment of United States savings bonds presumed abandoned. Provides that U.S. savings bonds which are unclaimed property and subject to prior law shall escheat to the state three years after becoming unclaimed property by virtue of prior law, and all property rights and legal title to and ownership of such bonds or proceeds from such bonds, including all rights, powers, and privileges of survivorship of any owner, co-owner or beneficiary, shall vest solely in the state according to the procedure set forth in new law.

Provides that within 180 days after the three years prescribed in new law, if no claim has been filed in accordance with new law for such U. S. savings bonds, the administrator shall commence a civil action in the 19th JDC for a determination that such savings bonds shall escheat to the state. Provides that the administrator may postpone the bringing of such action until sufficient U.S. savings bonds have accumulated in his custody to justify the expense of such proceedings.

Requires that the administrator make service by publication of the proceeding in the 19th JDC in East Baton Rouge Parish in accordance with prior law. Requires that the notice name any defendant to be served and notify the defendant of the following:

- (1) The defendant has been sued in the 19th JDC.
- (2) The defendant shall answer the petition or other pleading or otherwise defend, on or before a specified date, not less than 41 days after the date the notice is first published.
- (3) If the defendant does not answer or otherwise defend, the petition or other pleading will be taken as true and judgment, the nature of which will be stated, will be rendered accordingly.

Provides that, in addition, before service by publication under new law can be made, the administrator or the administrator's attorney shall file with the court an affidavit or a declaration stating all of the following facts that apply:

- (1) The residences of all named defendants sought to be served, if known, and the names of all defendants whose residences are unknown after reasonable effort to ascertain them and the specific efforts made to ascertain their residences.
- (2) The affiant or declarant has made a reasonable but unsuccessful effort to ascertain the names and residences of any defendants sought to be served as unknown parties and the specific efforts made to ascertain the names and residences.
- (3) The party seeking service by publication is unable to obtain service of summons on the defendants in this state.
- (4) The case is one in which the party with due diligence is unable to serve summons on the defendant in this state and either:
 - (a) The case relates to or involves immovable or movable property in this state, if any defendant has or claims a lien or interest, vested or contingent, in the property.
 - (b) In which the relief demanded consists wholly or partly in excluding the defendant from any interest in the property.

Provides that if no person shall file a claim or appear at the hearing to substantiate a claim or where the court determines that a claimant is not entitled to the property claimed by such claimant, then the court, if satisfied by evidence that the administrator has substantially complied with state law, shall enter a judgment that the subject U. S. savings bonds have escheated to the state, and all property rights and legal title to and ownership of such U.S.

savings bonds or proceeds from such bonds, including all rights, powers, and privileges of survivorship of any owner, co-owner or beneficiary, shall vest solely in the state.

Provides that the administrator shall redeem such U. S. savings bonds escheated to the state and the proceeds from such redemption shall be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the state general fund. Requires that the administrator not deposit the proceeds from the redemption of the U. S. savings bonds in the Bond Security and Redemption Fund nor in the Unclaimed Property Leverage Fund.

Provides that any person making a claim for U. S. savings bonds escheated to the state, or for the proceeds from such bonds, may file a claim in accordance with prior law. Provides that upon providing sufficient proof of the validity of such person's claim, the administrator may, in his sole discretion, pay such claim in accordance with prior law.

Otherwise retains prior law.

Effective upon signature of the governor (June 9, 2014).

(Amends R.S. 9:182)