

SENATE BILL NO. 268

BY SENATOR JOHNS AND REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 6:327(B) and (C) and 659.2 and to enact R.S. 6:327.1, 771, and 1142, relative to banks; to provide for the abandonment of safety deposit boxes; to allow for the disposal of unsalable contents; to provide procedures for disposing of or selling of abandoned contents; to provide relative to the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act; to provide relative to savings and loan associations, credit unions, and savings banks; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 6:327(B) and (C) and 659.2 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 6:327.1, 771, and 1142 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§327. Abandonment of safety deposit box

\* \* \*

B. If the safety deposit box rental is delinquent for six months, the bank after sixty days' notice by mail addressed to the lessee at his address as shown on the safety deposit box contract may, if the rent is not paid within the time specified in ~~said~~ **the** notice, open the box in the presence of two employees of the bank and a notary public who shall make an inventory of the contents of the box and place such contents in a sealed envelope or other container in the name of the lessee. The bank shall then send notice to the administrator of the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act of 1997 for publication as provided by R.S. 9:161-~~inclusion in their database and listing on their website~~ that the safety deposit box has been abandoned and that the bank is holding the listed contents thereof. ~~Such~~ **The** notice shall include the lessee's name and last known address.

C. After a bank has entered an abandoned safety deposit box and removed the contents thereof, it shall then hold such contents in the name of the lessee subject to

1 a lien and privilege for the unpaid rent, the costs of opening the box and making the  
 2 inventory of and storing its contents, and any other costs, expenses or other amounts  
 3 as provided in the lease or by law. If such amounts are not paid in full within one  
 4 year from the date the safety deposit box became abandoned, the bank may sell all  
 5 or any part of the contents by public, private, or judicial sale in accordance with  
 6 Louisiana law and the terms of the safety deposit box contract-, **and the bank may**  
 7 **also dispose of any unsalable contents in accordance with R.S. 6:327.1. After**  
 8 **satisfaction of the bank's lien, any remaining proceeds shall be subject to the**  
 9 **Uniform Unclaimed Property Act of 1997, R.S. 9:151, et seq. The bank may, but**  
 10 **is not required to, treat the remaining proceeds as presumed abandoned and**  
 11 **turn them over to the administrator of the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act**  
 12 **without having to wait for the passage of time delays set forth in R.S. 9:155.**

13 \* \* \*

14 **§327.1. Disposition of abandoned safety deposit box contents**

15 **A. If a bank has entered an abandoned safety deposit box in accordance**  
 16 **with the requirements of R.S. 6:327, and the bank decides to proceed with**  
 17 **disposing or selling the abandoned contents, then the provisions contained in the**  
 18 **safety deposit box rental agreement or the provisions contained in this Section**  
 19 **shall apply.**

20 **B.(1) Prior to a public or private sale of contents from an abandoned**  
 21 **box, the following types of property may be classified as unsalable by an**  
 22 **independent appraiser, an auctioneer, a pawn broker, or the bank, and disposed**  
 23 **of in the following manner:**

24 **(a) Documents, writings, or photographs having little or no commercial**  
 25 **value may be destroyed by the bank, except for those contents subject to the**  
 26 **provisions of R.S. 9:155(B).**

27 **(b) Coins or currency with a face value of twenty dollars or less each that**  
 28 **are valued at no more than twice the face value, shall be treated as proceeds of**  
 29 **a sale and used to satisfy the bank's lien and any excess proceeds shall be**  
 30 **remitted to the administrator of the Uniformed Unclaimed Property Act by**

1 paper check or electronic funds transfer.

2 (c) Coins or currency with a face value of greater than twenty dollars  
3 each that are valued at one hundred twenty-five percent or less of face value,  
4 shall be treated as proceeds of sale and used to satisfy the bank's lien and any  
5 excess proceeds shall be remitted to the administrator of the Uniform  
6 Unclaimed Property Act by paper check or electronic funds transfer.

7 (d) Any other tangible item having an estimated sale value of twenty-five  
8 dollars or less may be destroyed by the bank or donated by the bank to a  
9 charitable organization qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal  
10 Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 501, provided that the aggregate value of the items  
11 from a specific abandoned safety deposit box does not exceed two hundred fifty  
12 dollars.

13 (2) A current version of any recognized numismatist publication may be  
14 used for purposes of valuation of coins and currency.

15 C.(1) Prior to a public or private sale of contents from an abandoned  
16 safety deposit box that has not been classified as unsalable as provided in  
17 Subsection B of this Section, the bank shall obtain an independent valuation of  
18 the contents by an independent appraiser, auctioneer, pawn broker, coin or  
19 collectibles dealer, a jeweler, or by any other person who is regularly engaged  
20 in the business of appraising, buying, or selling like merchandise, or any other  
21 combination thereof.

22 (a) Contents from a safety deposit box with an independent valuation of  
23 more than one thousand dollars shall be sold for at least sixty-six percent of the  
24 independent valuation price at public or private sale. If no offer is received  
25 which meets the minimum valuation requirements, the contents may be sold  
26 without a value restriction at a subsequent public or private sale.

27 (b) Contents from a safety deposit box with an independent valuation of  
28 one thousand dollars or less may be sold without a value restriction at public or  
29 private sale.

30 (2) Firearms shall be disposed of in one of the following ways:

1                (a) Sold through a federal firearms licensed dealer.

2                (b) Sold through a public auction through an auctioneer who possesses  
3 a federal firearms license.

4                (c) Turned over to law enforcement.

5                D. Any public or private sale of contents of an abandoned safety deposit  
6 box must be a commercially reasonable sale held at a time and place in the  
7 judgment of the bank that will bring the most favorable prices for the property  
8 involved. For purposes of this Section, "commercially reasonable", includes but  
9 is not limited to a sale that would be commercially reasonable under R.S.  
10 10:9-610, or a sale, or sale methodology, that is approved by the commissioner  
11 of financial institutions. A bank may sell the contents of an abandoned safety  
12 deposit box in a sale conducted exclusively for the bank, or in a sale conducted  
13 jointly for the bank and any number of other financial institutions or other  
14 entities. A bank may use an online auction service as a commercially reasonable  
15 public sale. A party providing an independent valuation is eligible to purchase  
16 the contents valued at a public or private sale.

17                E. A bank and its directors, officers, employees, agents, and other  
18 representatives who act in accordance with the authority granted in R.S. 6:327  
19 and 327.1 relative to the disposition of abandoned safety deposit box contents  
20 shall be immune from all civil and administrative liability.

21    \*            \*            \*

22 §659.2. Federally insured credit unions; abandonment of safety deposit box

23                The provisions of R.S. 6:327 **and 327.1** shall apply to abandonment of a  
24 safety deposit box leased from a federally insured credit union.

25    \*            \*            \*

26 **§771. Disposition of abandoned safety deposit box contents**

27                The provisions of R.S. 6:327 and 327.1 relative to the disposition of  
28 abandoned safety deposit box contents shall be applicable to savings and loan  
29 associations chartered under the Louisiana Savings and Loan Association Law  
30 in the same manner as they are applicable to state banks.

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**§1142. Safety deposit boxes and safekeeping**

**The provisions of R.S. 6:321 through 328 relative to safety deposit boxes and safekeeping shall be applicable to savings banks chartered under the provisions of the Louisiana Savings Bank Act of 1990 in the same manner as they are applicable to state banks.**

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_