

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2161
Version:	INT
Request Number:	11602
Author:	Rep. Dobrinski
Date:	2/11/2025
Impact:	Please see previous summary of this measure

Research Analysis

HB 2161, as introduced, establishes property guidelines for museums. A museum may acquire undocumented property held by the museum for seven or more years without valid claims by publishing notices in a local newspaper. If no claims are made within 90 days, the museum gains ownership. A museum may also gain title to loaned property after two years of no contact with the lender. The museum must notify the lender in writing or, if unreachable, publish a notice in a local newspaper.

Museums must keep detailed records of undocumented and loaned property for at least two years and inform lenders of any changes to the museum's contact information. Museums may apply conservation measures to or dispose of undocumented or loaned property if necessary for preservation or safety, even without the lender's consent, under certain conditions.

Lenders have two years to file claims for a property once ownership has been transferred to the museum. After that period, no claims can be brought against the museum. If someone claims ownership of loaned property and proves their interest, the museum is not liable for returning the property to the original lender without court involvement. Property loaned to a museum does not escheat to the state upon the owner's death but becomes the museum's property.

Prepared By: Autumn Mathews

Fiscal Analysis

The measure is currently under review and impact information will be completed.

Prepared By: House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.