



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**UNCLAIMED MUSEUM LOANS**

**House Bill 4752**

**Sponsor: Rep. Richard Bandstra**

**Committee: Judiciary**

**Complete to 6-6-91**

**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4752 AS INTRODUCED 4-29-91**

The bill would create a new public act to establish procedures under which a museum could acquire ownership of an unclaimed item on loan to the museum. A museum would automatically acquire ownership of undocumented property that had been in its possession for at least 25 years. For undocumented property in its possession less than 25 years, the museum would acquire ownership if the property remained unclaimed one year after publication of newspaper notice.

Beginning when the bill took effect, museums would have to maintain written records on loaned items, and notify lenders of museum changes of address or dissolution. Lenders would have to keep museums informed of changes in address or in ownership of the property.

When property was loaned to a museum for an indefinite term, or when it was loaned for a definite term that had expired, the museum could give notice of termination of the loan. Notice would have to be by certified mail to the lender's last known address, or if the lender was unknown, by newspaper publication. The museum would explain the proposed termination and the need for the lender to claim the property in order to preserve his or her ownership of it; the museum would provide a form the lender could use to preserve his or her interest in the property. The lender could preserve his or her interest by responding within one year.

If a lender preserved his or her interest, the museum could either arrange for delivery of the property at the lender's expense, or maintain possession of the property. A museum maintaining possession of property would have to retain a copy of the lender's written statement for at least 25 years.