

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That new Section 30-3 be and it is hereby added to the Public Local Laws of Washington County being Article 22 of the Public Local Laws of Maryland (1970 Edition and 1975 Supplement, as amended) to read as follows:

Article 22

30-3.

(A) ANY PERSONAL PROPERTY WHICH COMES INTO THE POSSESSION OF THE SHERIFF OF WASHINGTON COUNTY SHALL BE HELD UNTIL THE SHERIFF DETERMINES THAT ITS CUSTODY IS NO LONGER NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH ANY PROSECUTION. AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "PERSONAL PROPERTY" DOES NOT INCLUDE CONTRABAND OR PERSONAL PROPERTY PURCHASED OR OTHERWISE ACQUIRED FOR USE BY THE SHERIFF.

(B) AFTER EXPIRATION OF THE PERIOD REFERRED TO IN SUBSECTION (A), PERSONAL PROPERTY SHALL BE DELIVERED TO THE PERSON WHO SATISFACTORILY ESTABLISHES HIS RIGHT TO ITS POSSESSION AND GIVES A PROPER RECEIPT THEREFOR.

(C) AT ANY TIME AFTER PERSONAL PROPERTY HAS BEEN IN THE POSSESSION OF THE SHERIFF FOR A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS AND ITS CUSTODY IS NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR THE PURPOSE REFERRED TO IN SUBSECTION (A), NOTICE OF THE SALE OF THE PROPERTY MAY BE GIVEN BY REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED MAIL TO THOSE PERSONS ENTITLED TO ITS POSSESSION AND TO THOSE LIENHOLDERS WHOSE NAMES AND ADDRESSES CAN BE ASCERTAINED BY THE EXERCISE OF REASONABLE DILIGENCE. THEREAFTER, THE PROPERTY MAY BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION AFTER A DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSONAL PROPERTY AND THE TIME, PLACE, AND TERMS OF THE SALE HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN WASHINGTON COUNTY IN EACH OF TWO SUCCESSIVE WEEKS. THE CERTIFICATE OF THE SHERIFF THAT PERSONAL PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL CONSTITUTE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF TITLE TO THE PROPERTY FOR ALL PURPOSES, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE OR REGISTRATION FROM AN APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE.

(D) THE AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM THE SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER OF PRIORITY (1) TO THE SHERIFF OF WASHINGTON COUNTY IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE EXPENSE OF SALE AND ALL EXPENSES INCURRED WHILE THE PERSONAL PROPERTY WAS IN HIS CUSTODY, (2) TO LIENHOLDERS IN ORDER OF THEIR PRIORITY, AND (3) TO THE GENERAL FUNDS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY.

(E) AT ANY TIME WITHIN THREE YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THE SALE, ANY PERSON SUBMITTING SATISFACTORY PROOF OF HIS RIGHT TO THE POSSESSION OF THE PERSONAL PROPERTY SHALL BE PAID, WITHOUT INTEREST, THE AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED TO THE GENERAL FUNDS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (D) (3). AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THREE YEARS