

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2019 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Commerce and Tourism

SB 180 — Lost or Abandoned Personal Property

by Senators Stargel and Hutson

Chapter 2019-6, L.O.F., allows an owner or operator of a theme park, entertainment complex, zoo, museum, aquarium, public food service establishment, or public lodging establishment to elect to dispose of or donate lost or abandoned property found on its premises.

Under the law, an owner or operator who elects to dispose of or donate lost or abandoned property must first take charge of the property, maintain a record of the property, and hold the property for at least 30 days. The law prohibits the owner or operator from selling the property. If the property remains unclaimed after 30 days, the owner or operator must dispose of or donate the property to a charitable institution. If a charitable institution accepts certain electronic devices, the bill requires the charitable institution to make a reasonable effort to delete all personal data from the device before its sale or disposal.

The law also provides that the rightful owner of the property may reclaim the property at any time before its disposal or donation.

These provisions were approved by the Governor and take effect July 1, 2019.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 114-0