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27 in accordance with ss. 717.117(1) and (3) and 717.119, if the  
28 department is not in possession of the bond.

29 (2) (a) After a United States savings bond is abandoned and  
30 unclaimed in accordance with subsection (1), the department may  
31 commence a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction in  
32 Leon County for a determination that the bond shall escheat to  
33 the state. Upon determination of escheatment, all property  
34 rights to the bond or proceeds from the bond, including all  
35 rights, powers, and privileges of survivorship of an owner,  
36 coowner, or beneficiary, shall vest solely in the state.

37 (b) Service of process by publication may be made on a  
38 party in a civil action pursuant to this section. A notice of  
39 action shall state the name of any known owner of the bond, the  
40 nature of the action or proceeding in short and simple terms,  
41 the name of the court in which the action or proceeding is  
42 instituted, and an abbreviated title of the case.

43 (c) The notice of action shall require a person claiming  
44 an interest in the bond to file a written defense with the clerk  
45 of the court and serve a copy of the defense by the date fixed  
46 in the notice. The date must not be less than 28 or more than 60  
47 days after the first publication of the notice.

48 (d) The notice of action shall be published once a week  
49 for 4 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation  
50 published in Leon County. Proof of publication shall be placed  
51 in the court file.

52 (e)1. If no person files a claim with the court for the

53 bond and if the department has substantially complied with the  
54 provisions of this section, the court shall enter a default  
55 judgment that the bond, or proceeds from such bond, has  
56 escheated to the state.

57 2. If a person files a claim for one or more bonds and,  
58 after notice and hearing, the court determines that the claimant  
59 is not entitled to the bonds claimed by such claimant, the court  
60 shall enter a judgment that such bonds, or proceeds from such  
61 bonds, have escheated to the state.

62 3. If a person files a claim for one or more bonds and,  
63 after notice and hearing, the court determines that the claimant  
64 is entitled to the bonds claimed by such claimant, the court  
65 shall enter a judgment in favor of the claimant.

66 (3) The department may redeem a United States savings bond  
67 escheated to the state pursuant to this section or, in the event  
68 that the department is not in possession of the bond, seek to  
69 obtain the proceeds from such bond. Proceeds received by the  
70 department shall be deposited in accordance with s. 717.123.

71 Section 2. Section 717.1383, Florida Statutes, is created  
72 to read:

73 717.1383 United States savings bond; claim for bond.—A  
74 person claiming a United States savings bond escheated to the  
75 state under s. 717.1382, or for the proceeds from such bond, may  
76 file a claim with the department. The department may approve the  
77 claim if the person is able to provide sufficient proof of the  
78 validity of the person's claim. Once a bond, or the proceeds

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79 from such bond, are remitted to a claimant, no action thereafter  
80 may be maintained by any other person against the department,  
81 the state, or any officer thereof, for or on account of such  
82 funds. The person's sole remedy, if any, shall be against the  
83 claimant who received the bond or the proceeds from such bond.

84 Section 3. This act applies to any United States savings  
85 bond that reaches maturity on, before, or after the effective  
86 date of this act.

87 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.