

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 422

BY JUDICIARY, RULES, AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES; AMENDING SECTION 37-2744, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SUPERVISION OF THE DESTRUCTION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 37-2744, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

37-2744. FORFEITURES. (a) The following are subject to forfeiture:

(1) All controlled substances which have been manufactured, distributed, dispensed, acquired, possessed or held in violation of this act or with respect to which there has been any act by any person in violation of this act;

(2) All raw materials, products and equipment of any kind which are used, or intended for use, in manufacturing, compounding, processing, delivering, importing, or exporting any controlled substances or counterfeit substances in violation of this act;

(3) All property which is used, or intended for use, as a container for property described in paragraph (1) or (2) ~~hereof~~ of this section;

(4) All conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles, or vessels, which are used, or intended for use, to transport, or in any manner to facilitate the transportation, delivery, receipt, possession or concealment, for the purpose of distribution or receipt of property described in paragraph (1) or (2) ~~hereof~~ of this section, but:

(A) No conveyance used by any person as a common carrier in the transaction of business as a common carrier is subject to forfeiture under this section unless it appears that the owner or other person in charge of the conveyance is a consenting party or privy to a violation of this act;

(B) No conveyance is subject to forfeiture under this section if the owner establishes that he could not have known in the exercise of reasonable diligence that the conveyance was being used, had been used, was intended to be used or had been intended to be used in any manner described in subsection (a) (4) of this section;

(C) A forfeiture of a conveyance encumbered by a bona fide security interest is subject to the interest of the secured party if the security interest was created without any knowledge or reason to believe that the conveyance was being used, had been used, was intended to be used, or had been intended to be used for the purpose alleged.

(5) All books, records, and research products and materials, including formulas, microfilm, tapes, and data which are used, or intended for use, in violation of this act.

1 (6) (A) All moneys, currency, negotiable instruments, securities
2 or other items easily liquidated for cash, such as, but not lim-
3 ited to, jewelry, stocks and bonds, or other property described
4 in paragraphs (2) and (3) hereof, found in close proximity to
5 property described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), (5), (7) or (8) of
6 subsection (a) of this section or which has been used or intended
7 for use in connection with the illegal manufacture, distribution,
8 dispensing or possession of property described in paragraph (1),
9 (2), (3), (5), (7) or (8) of subsection (a) of this section;

10 (B) Items described in paragraph (6) (A) above of this subsection
11 or other things of value furnished or intended to be furnished by
12 any person in exchange for a contraband controlled substance in
13 violation of this chapter, all proceeds, including items of prop-
14 erty traceable to such an exchange, and all moneys or other things
15 of value used or intended to be used to facilitate any violation
16 of this chapter, except that no property shall be forfeited under
17 this paragraph to the extent of the interest of an owner, by reason
18 of any act or omission established by that owner to have been com-
19 mitted or omitted without the knowledge or consent of that owner.

20 (7) All drug paraphernalia as defined by section 37-2701, Idaho Code.

21 (8) All simulated controlled substances, which are used or intended for
22 use in violation of this chapter.

23 (9) All weapons, or firearms, which are used in any manner to facilitate
24 a violation of the provisions of this chapter.

25 (b) Property subject to forfeiture under this chapter may be seized by
26 the director, or any peace officer of this state, upon process issued by any
27 district court, or magistrate's division thereof, having jurisdiction over
28 the property. Seizure without process may be made if:

29 (1) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search under a search war-
30 rant or an inspection under an administrative inspection warrant;

31 (2) The property subject to seizure has been the subject of a prior
32 judgment in favor of the state in a criminal racketeering or civil for-
33 feiture proceeding based upon a violation of this chapter;

34 (3) Probable cause exists to believe that the property is directly or
35 indirectly dangerous to health or safety; or

36 (4) Probable cause exists to believe that the property was used or is
37 intended to be used in violation of this chapter.

38 (c) In the event of seizure pursuant to subsection (b) of this sec-
39 tion, proceedings under subsection (d) of this section shall be instituted
40 promptly.

41 (1) When property is seized under this section, the director or the
42 peace officer who seized the property may:

43 (A) Place the property under seal;

44 (B) Remove the property to a place designated by it; or

45 (C) Take custody of the property and remove it to an appropriate
46 location for disposition in accordance with law.

47 (2) The peace officer who seized the property shall within five (5) days
48 notify the director of such seizure.

49 (3) In the event of seizure pursuant to subsection (b) of this section,
50 proceedings under subsection (d) of this section shall be instituted

1 within thirty (30) days by the director or appropriate prosecuting at-
2 torney.

3 (d) Property taken or detained under this section shall not be subject
4 to replevin, but is deemed to be in the custody of the director, or appro-
5 priate prosecuting attorney, subject only to the orders and decrees of the
6 district court, or magistrate's division thereof, having jurisdiction over
7 the forfeiture proceedings. Forfeiture proceedings shall be civil actions
8 against the property subject to forfeiture and the standard of proof shall be
9 preponderance of the evidence.

10 (1) All property described in paragraphs (1), (7) and (8) of subsec-
11 tion (a) ~~hereof of this section~~ shall be deemed contraband and shall
12 be summarily forfeited to the state. Controlled substances which are
13 seized or come into possession of the state, the owners of which are
14 unknown, shall be deemed contraband and shall be summarily forfeited to
15 the state.

16 (2) When property described in paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6)
17 of subsection (a) ~~hereof of this section~~ is seized pursuant to this sec-
18 tion, forfeiture proceedings shall be filed in the office of the clerk
19 of the district court for the county wherein such property is seized.
20 The procedure governing such proceedings shall be the same as that pre-
21 scribed for civil proceedings by the Idaho ~~R~~rules of ~~C~~civil ~~P~~procedure.
22 The court shall order the property forfeited to the director, or appro-
23 priate prosecuting attorney, if he determines that such property was
24 used, or intended for use, in violation of this chapter, or, in the case
25 of items described in paragraph (6) (A) of subsection (a), was found in
26 close proximity to property described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), (5),
27 (7) or (8) of subsection (a) of this section.

28 (3) When conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles, or vessels are
29 seized pursuant to this section a complaint instituting forfeiture pro-
30 ceedings shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the district court
31 for the county wherein such conveyance is seized.

32 (A) Notice of forfeiture proceedings shall be given each owner
33 or party in interest who has a right, title, or interest which in
34 the case of a conveyance shall be determined by the record in the
35 Idaho transportation department or a similar department of an-
36 other state if the records are maintained in that state, by serving
37 a copy of the complaint and summons according to one (1) of the
38 following methods:

39 (I) Upon each owner or party in interest by mailing a copy of
40 the complaint and summons by certified mail to the address as
41 given upon the records of the appropriate department.

42 (II) Upon each owner or party in interest whose name and ad-
43 dress is known, by mailing a copy of the notice by registered
44 mail to the last known address.

45 (B) Within twenty (20) days after the mailing or publication of
46 the notice, the owner of the conveyance or claimant may file a ver-
47 ified answer and claim to the property described in the complaint
48 instituting forfeiture proceedings.

49 (C) If at the end of twenty (20) days after the notice has been
50 mailed there is no verified answer on file, the court shall hear

1 evidence upon the fact of the unlawful use, or intent to use, and
2 shall order the property forfeited to the director, or appropriate
3 prosecuting attorney, if such fact is proved.

4 (D) If a verified answer is filed, the forfeiture proceeding shall
5 be set for hearing before the court without a jury on a day not less
6 than thirty (30) days therefrom; and the proceeding shall have
7 priority over other civil cases.

8 (I) At the hearing any owner who has a verified answer on
9 file may show by competent evidence that the conveyance was
10 not used or intended to be used in any manner described in
11 subsection (a) (4) of this section.

12 (II) At the hearing any owner who has a verified answer on
13 file may show by competent evidence that his interest in the
14 conveyance is not subject to forfeiture because he could not
15 have known in the exercise of reasonable diligence that the
16 conveyance was being used, had been used, was intended to be
17 used or had been intended to be used in any manner described
18 in subsection (a) (4) of this section.

19 (III) If the court finds that the property was not used or was
20 not intended to be used in violation of this act, or is not
21 subject to forfeiture under this act, the court shall order
22 the property released to the owner as his right, title, or
23 interest appears on records in the appropriate department as
24 of the seizure.

25 (IV) An owner, co-owner or claimant of any right, title, or
26 interest in the conveyance may prove that his right, title,
27 or interest, whether under a lien, mortgage, conditional
28 sales contract or otherwise, was created without any knowl-
29 edge or reason to believe that the conveyance was being used,
30 had been used, was intended to be used, or had been intended
31 to be used for the purpose alleged;

32 (i) In the event of such proof, the court shall order
33 the conveyance released to the bona fide or innocent
34 owner, purchaser, lienholder, mortgagee, or condi-
35 tional sales vendor. The court may order payment of all
36 costs incurred by the state or law enforcement agency
37 as a result of such seizure.

38 (ii) If the amount due to such person is less than
39 the value of the conveyance, the conveyance may be
40 sold at public auction by the director or appropriate
41 prosecuting attorney. The director, or appropriate
42 prosecuting attorney, shall publish a notice of the
43 sale by at least one (1) publication in a newspaper
44 published and circulated in the city, community or lo-
45 cality where the sale is to take place at least one (1)
46 week prior to sale of the conveyance. The proceeds from
47 such sale shall be distributed as follows in the order
48 indicated:

49 1. To the bona fide or innocent owner, purchaser,
50 conditional sales vendor, lienholder or mort-

gagee of the conveyance, if any, up to the value of his interest in the conveyance.

2. The balance, if any, in the following order:

A. To the director, or appropriate prosecuting attorney, for all expenditures made or incurred by it in connection with the sale, including expenditure for any necessary repairs, storage, or transportation of the conveyance, and for all expenditures made or incurred by him in connection with the forfeiture proceedings including, but not limited to, expenditures for witnesses' fees, reporters' fees, transcripts, printing, traveling and investigation.

B. To the law enforcement agency of this state which seized the conveyance for all expenditures for traveling, investigation, storage and other expenses made or incurred after the seizure and in connection with the forfeiture of any conveyance seized under this act.

C. The remainder, if any, to the director for credit to the drug and driving while under the influence enforcement donation fund or to the appropriate prosecuting attorney for credit to the local drug enforcement donation fund, or its equivalent.

(iii) In any case, the director, or appropriate prosecuting attorney, may, within thirty (30) days after judgment, pay the balance due to the bona fide lienholder, mortgagee or conditional sales vendor and thereby purchase the conveyance for use to enforce this act.

(e) When property is forfeited under this section, or is received from a federal enforcement agency, the director, or appropriate prosecuting attorney, may:

(1) Retain it for official use;

(2) Sell that which is not required to be destroyed by law and which is not harmful to the public.

The director, or appropriate prosecuting attorney, shall publish a notice of the sale by at least one (1) publication in a newspaper published and circulated in the city, community or locality where the sale is to take place at least one (1) week prior to sale of the property. The proceeds from such sale shall be distributed as follows in the order indicated:

(A) To the director, or prosecuting attorney on behalf of the county or city law enforcement agency, for all expenditures made or incurred in connection with the sale, including expenditure

1 for any necessary repairs, maintenance, storage or transporta-
2 tion, and for all expenditures made or incurred in connection
3 with the forfeiture proceedings including, but not limited to,
4 expenditures for witnesses' fees, reporters' fees, transcripts,
5 printing, traveling and investigation.

6 (B) To the law enforcement agency of this state which seized the
7 property for all expenditures for traveling, investigation, stor-
8 age and other expenses made or incurred after the seizure and in
9 connection with the forfeiture of any property seized under this
10 act.

11 (C) The remainder, if any, to the director for credit to the drug
12 and driving while under the influence enforcement donation fund
13 or to the appropriate prosecuting attorney for credit to the local
14 agency's drug enforcement donation fund; or

15 (3) Take custody of the property and remove it for disposition in accor-
16 dance with law; ~~or~~.

17 (f) (1) The director or any peace officer of this state seizing any of
18 the property described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of
19 this section shall cause a written inventory to be made and maintain
20 custody of the same until all legal actions have been exhausted unless
21 such property has been placed in lawful custody of a court or state
22 or federal law enforcement agency. After all legal actions have been
23 exhausted with respect to such property, the property shall be surren-
24 dered by the court, law enforcement agency, or person having custody
25 of the same to the director to be destroyed pursuant to paragraph (2)
26 hereof of this subsection. The property shall be accompanied with a
27 written inventory on forms furnished by the director.

28 (2) All property described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)
29 which is seized or surrendered under the provisions of this act may be
30 destroyed after all legal actions have been exhausted. The destruction
31 shall be done under the supervision of the ~~supervisory drug analyst of~~
32 ~~the Idaho state police,~~ by a representative of the office of the direc-
33 tor and a representative of the state board of pharmacy. An official
34 record listing the property destroyed and the location of destruction
35 shall be kept on file at the office of the director. Except, however,
36 that the director of the Idaho state police or his designee may autho-
37 rize the destruction of drug or nondrug evidence, or store those items
38 at government expense when, in the opinion of the director or his de-
39 signee, it is not reasonable to remove or transport such items from the
40 location of the seizure for destruction. In such case, a representative
41 sample will be removed and preserved for evidentiary purposes and, when
42 practicable, destroyed as otherwise is in accordance with this chapter.
43 On-site destruction of such items shall be witnessed by at least two (2)
44 persons, one (1) of whom shall be the director or his designee who shall
45 make a record of the destruction.

46 (g) Species of plants from which controlled substances in schedules I
47 and II may be derived which have been planted or cultivated in violation of
48 this act, or of which the owners or cultivators are unknown, or which are wild
49 growths, may be seized and summarily forfeited to the state.

1 (h) The failure, upon demand by the director, or his duly authorized
2 agent, of the person in occupancy or in control of land or premises upon which
3 the species of plants are growing or being stored, to produce an appropriate
4 registration, or proof that he is the holder thereof, constitutes authority
5 for the seizure and forfeiture of the plants.

6 (i) The director shall have the authority to enter upon any land or into
7 any dwelling pursuant to a search warrant, to cut, harvest, carry off or de-
8 stroy such plants described in subsection (g) ~~hereof~~ of this section.