

County sheriff and city police departments are required by law to keep unclaimed property for currently 180 days (6 months), before the item can be auctioned or destroyed. For bicycles, the law requires 90 days (3 months).

Idaho Code 55-403, “any personal property which has come into the possession or custody of the sheriff of any county in this state or the city police department having been abandoned shall be taken into custody for more than 180 days from the date of abandonment.” There is a separate section in this code that deals with unclaimed or lost bicycles to be in possession of the city of county office for 90 days. This bill aims to decrease Idaho’s timeline for retaining these abandoned and/ or unclaimed found property, in order to match other states.

Currently, Idaho’s county or city law enforcement offices have to hang on to these items for twice the amount of time of surrounding states, such as Utah, Washington, Oregon or Wyoming.

STATE	FOUND BICYCLES	FOUND PROPERTY	SAFEKEEPING
IDAHO	90 DAYS	6 MONTHS	6 MONTHS
S1119 Changes →	60 DAYS	90 DAYS	
OREGON	60 DAYS	90 DAYS	90 DAYS
WASHINGTON	60 DAYS	60 DAYS	60 DAYS
UTAH	90 DAYS	90 DAYS	90 DAYS

This piece of statute was put into Idaho code in 1957. The Idaho Legislature added in an amendment in 1986 for lost or unclaimed bicycles to be set at 90 days. With Idaho’s increasing population, many offices are bringing in a lot more unclaimed items than 1957 when this was put into code. This bill could save cities and counties money and would help with the increasing storage problem that law enforcement offices are seeing.

This piece of legislation before you today, is simply updating and aligning Idaho Code to help our city and county offices.

Question:

Why can’t a city or county just decide this on the local level?

Answer:

Due to this being put into Idaho Code back in 1957, our county/ city offices have to hang onto these items for the current minimum days in set in code. A city or county could hang onto items for as long as they want but we are wanting to provide a minimum for those counties or city departments that are running out of space.