

CHAPTER 140
HB 375 - FINAL VERSION

04/22/2021 1165s

2021 SESSION

21-0454
08/04

HOUSE BILL **375**

AN ACT allowing the destruction of valueless contraband by the chief of police, the chief's designee, the county sheriff, or the sheriff's designee.

SPONSORS: Rep. Long, Hills. 10

COMMITTEE: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

AMENDED ANALYSIS

 This bill allows the destruction of valueless contraband by the chief of police, the chief's designee, the county sheriff, or the sheriff's designee.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT allowing the destruction of valueless contraband by the chief of police, the chief's designee, the county sheriff, or the sheriff's designee.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 140:1 Destruction of Property Held by Police. Amend RSA 471-C:13 to read as follows:

2 471-C:13 Property Held in Police Department Property Rooms.

3 ***I.*** Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, all noncontraband
4 abandoned or lost personal property which has a value of \$250 or more and which has been held in a
5 police department ***or sheriff's office*** property room for a period of at least 180 days, or which has a
6 value of less than \$250 and has been held for a period of at least 90 days, may be disposed of by the
7 police department ***or sheriff's office*** by returning it to the finder, if known, if the finder was other
8 than a police officer ***or a sheriff*** who discovered the property during the course of the police officer's
9 ***or sheriff's*** usual police duties. If the property cannot be returned to the finder, the property shall
10 be sold at public auction with the proceeds to be turned over to the town or city treasurer[-], except
11 that any bicycle which has been held in a police department ***or sheriff's office*** property room for a
12 period of 90 days or more shall be sold at public auction with the proceeds to be used for the support
13 of local bicycle safety programs, or, if no local bicycle safety programs are available, then with the
14 consent of the local governing body, to be used for any other purpose. The police department ***or***
15 ***sheriff's office*** shall be relieved of all liability for any claim thereafter arising or made with respect
16 to property disposed of under this section. A good faith judgment of the value of the property by the
17 police department ***or sheriff's office*** shall be determinative for purposes of this section.

18 ***II.*** ***If the noncontraband abandoned or lost personal property cannot be returned***
19 ***under paragraph I, and if it is determined in good faith by the police department or***
20 ***sheriff's office to be of no monetary value, then such property may be destroyed or disposed***
21 ***of as directed by the chief of police for the department or the chief's designee, or the county***
22 ***sheriff or the sheriff's designee.***

140:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: July 23, 2021

Effective Date: September 21, 2021