

Public Law 87-691

AN ACT

September 25, 1962
[S. 3317]

To amend provisions of law relating to personal property coming into the custody of the property clerk, Metropolitan Police Department, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 413 of the Revised Statutes of the United States relating to the District of Columbia, as amended (sec. 4-156, D.C. Code, 1961 edition), is amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

“(e) Whenever the owner of property in the custody of the property clerk has been notified by the property clerk, by registered or certified mail, to take possession of such property within thirty days after the date of mailing of such notification, and such owner fails so to do within such period, such property shall be thereafter treated as other unclaimed, abandoned, or lost property and shall be disposed of as provided in section 417 of this chapter: *Provided*, That if, in the opinion of the property clerk, such property has no salable value, and if within thirty days after the date of mailing such notification such property is not reclaimed by its owner and removed by him from the custody of the property clerk, such property shall be disposed of by destruction or otherwise, as the Commissioners of the District of Columbia by regulation or order shall provide.”

SEC. 2. Section 416 of the Revised Statutes of the United States relating to the District of Columbia, as amended (sec. 4-159, D.C. Code, 1961 edition), is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 416. (a) All property or money taken on suspicion of having been feloniously obtained, or of being the proceeds of crime, and for which there is no other claimant than the person from whom such property was taken, and all lost property coming into possession of any member of the police force, and all property and money taken from pawnbrokers as the proceeds of crime or from persons alleged to be insane, intoxicated, or otherwise incapable of taking care of themselves, shall be transmitted as soon as practicable to the property clerk to be fully registered and advertised for the benefit of all parties interested, and for the information of the public as to the amount and disposition of the property so taken into custody by the police.

“(b) (1) Whenever any money or property of a deceased person of a value of less than \$1,000 coming into the custody of the property clerk shall remain in his custody for a period of six months or more without being claimed and repossessed by the next of kin or the legal representative of such deceased person, such money or property shall be disposed of as lost or abandoned property as provided in section 417 of this chapter: *Provided*, That prior to the disposition of such property of a deceased person it shall be the duty of the property clerk to ascertain whether there is pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia any petition seeking the appointment of a legal representative of such deceased person, and, if such a petition is pending in such court, the property clerk shall not dispose of such property until final disposition by the court of such petition: *Provided further*, That in any case where the property clerk acquires actual knowledge that a petition for the appointment of a legal representative of such deceased person has been filed or is pending in a court outside of the District of Columbia, the property clerk shall not dispose of such property until final disposition by the court of such petition.

“(b) (2) Whenever any money or property of a deceased person shall be of a value of \$1,000 or more and shall have remained in the

D. C.
Metropolitan
Police Dept.
Personal prop-
erty.
55 Stat. 185.

Post, p. 591.

Feloniously ob-
tained property.

Deceased persons'
property.

Post, p. 591.

custody of the property clerk for at least six months, all records pertaining to the same shall be referred by the property clerk to the Corporation Counsel of the District of Columbia for the purpose of instituting appropriate proceedings to effect the appointment of an administrator of the estate of such decedent: *Provided*, That upon expiration of the time for final settlement of such estate under law then in effect, the residue thereof in the absence of any claim by the heirs-at-law or next of kin of the decedent, as provided by law, shall be deposited into the Registry of the Probate Court, and upon the expiration of a period of three years, no demand having been made upon such funds by lawful heirs or other rightful claimants, the amount so deposited in such registry shall be deposited in the Treasury to the credit of the District of Columbia: *Provided further*, That if the administrator does not take possession of such property within three months from the date of his appointment, the property clerk may, after giving such administrator thirty days' notice by registered or certified mail, sell such property at public auction, and, after deducting the expenses of such sale, and expense incident to the maintenance of custody of such property, shall pay the remaining proceeds of such sale over to such administrator.

Insane persons' property.

"(c) Whenever the property clerk has custody of any property belonging to any person who has been adjudged of unsound mind and a committee has been appointed for such person but fails to take possession of the property of such person in the custody of the property clerk within six months from the date of such committee's appointment, the property clerk shall give such committee sixty days' notice by registered or certified mail of his intention to sell such property at public auction or otherwise dispose of such property in accordance with law. If, upon the expiration of such sixty days' notice, the committee has not taken custody of such property, (a) the property clerk is authorized to sell such property at public auction, and, after deducting the expenses of the sale, expenses incident to the maintenance and custody of such property, and any amounts due the District of Columbia for care and maintenance of the adjudicated patient, shall pay the remaining proceeds of the sale over to such committee, or (b) if in the opinion of the property clerk any such property has no salable value, he is authorized to dispose of such property by destruction or otherwise as the Commissioners of the District of Columbia shall, by regulation or order, determine.

Storage.

"(d) (1) The said Commissioners are authorized, in their discretion, to store in any commercial warehouse or garage in the District of Columbia, or in or on any facility under the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia, any property coming into the custody of the property clerk pursuant to this chapter, including vehicles impounded by any officer or member of the Metropolitan Police force.

Fees.

"(2) The Commissioners are authorized to fix, by regulation, the fees to be charged to reimburse the District of Columbia for the cost of services rendered by the Metropolitan Police force in taking custody of and protecting such property and for the cost of storing such property in any commercial warehouse or garage, and whenever any such property is stored in or on any facility under the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia, the Commissioners shall fix the storage fee in an amount reasonably estimated by them to be the value of the storage service rendered for each day during which such property is so stored, and to collect all such fees due and owing for such property before releasing such property to its owner or his legal representative: *Provided*, That the Commissioners are authorized, in their discretion, to waive the charging and collecting of such fees for property taken into custody as evidence, the proceeds of crime, or from persons sup-

posed to be insane: *Provided further*, That the property clerk is authorized to sell at public auction pursuant to subsection (a) of section 417 of this chapter any property stored in a commercial garage or warehouse, when the storage charges for such property exceed 75 per centum of its value as determined by the property clerk, regardless of the amount of time for which such property is required by other sections of this chapter to be held by the property clerk.

Infra.

“(3) Fees collected by reason of this section shall be deposited in the Treasury to the credit of the District of Columbia.”

SEC. 3. Subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 306 of the Act approved June 29, 1953 (67 Stat. 101, ch. 159), are hereby repealed.

Repeal.

SEC. 4. Section 417 of the Revised Statutes of the United States relating to the District of Columbia, as amended (sec. 4-160, D.C. Code, 1961 edition), is amended to read as follows:

Sale at public auction.

“SEC. 417. (a) All property, except perishable property and animals and property of insane persons, not otherwise disposed of in accordance with section 416 of this chapter, that shall remain in the custody of the property clerk for not less than ninety days, except motor vehicles which shall be held for not less than sixty days, without being claimed and repossessed, shall, after having been three times advertised in a daily newspaper of general circulation published in the District of Columbia, be sold at public auction, and the proceeds of such sale, after deducting the expenses of the sale, and all other expenses incident to such custody, having been retained by the said property clerk for a period of at least ninety days without being claimed and repossessed, shall be deposited in the Treasury to the credit of the District of Columbia: *Provided*, That if in the opinion of the property clerk any such property has no salable value, he is authorized to dispose of such property by destruction or otherwise as the Commissioners of the District of Columbia shall, by order or regulation, determine.

Supra.

“(b) Whenever the property clerk shall have in his custody any motor vehicle upon which there is a lien or liens of record in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia he shall, prior to the sale thereof pursuant to this section, notify by registered or certified mail each lienor and lienee in any such case of such custody and impending sale, and if such lienor or lienee fail to remove such property from the custody of the property clerk within thirty days from the date of the mailing of such notification, such lien or liens shall be considered to have been abandoned, and shall be thenceforth null and void. Upon being notified in writing of such fact by the property clerk, the Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia is authorized to indicate on his records that such lien or liens are thenceforth null and void and the property clerk is authorized to sell any such motor vehicle at public auction free and clear of such lien or liens; except that the proceeds of such sale shall be available, first, for the payment of all expenses incident to such sale and custody; second, for the payment of such liens so declared null and void; third, for payment to the owner in accordance with subsection (a) of this section; and the remainder, if any, shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the District of Columbia.

Motor vehicles.

“(c) All money, except money of insane persons, that shall remain in the custody of the property clerk for six months shall be so advertised, and if not claimed and repossessed within thirty days, it shall likewise be deposited in the Treasury to the credit of the District of Columbia.”

SEC. 5. Neither the government of the District of Columbia nor any officer or employee thereof shall be liable for damage to any property

Liability for damage.

resulting from the removal of such property from public space, or the transportation of such property into the custody of the property clerk, Metropolitan Police Department, nor for damage to any such property while such property is in the custody of the property clerk, Metropolitan Police Department, when such custody is maintained pursuant to the requirements of law, except that the government of the District of Columbia or any such officer or employee may be liable for damage to such property as a result of gross negligence in the removal, transportation, or storage of such property: *Provided*, That should a judgment be entered for the District of Columbia against any commercial warehouseman or garagekeeper for damage to such property in his care, recovery on such judgment, less all administrative expenses and court costs to the District of Columbia involved in such litigation, shall be paid by the District of Columbia to the owner of the damaged property as determined by the property clerk. For the purpose of this section the term "gross negligence" means a willful intent to injure property, or a reckless or wanton disregard of the rights of another in his property.

"Gross negligence."

D. C. Code
title 1 app.

SEC. 6. Nothing in this Act shall be construed so as to affect the authority vested in the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia by Reorganization Plan Numbered 5 of 1952 (66 Stat. 824). The performance of any function vested by this Act in the Board of Commissioners or in any office or agency under the jurisdiction and control of said Board of Commissioners may be delegated by said Board of Commissioners in accordance with section 3 of such plan.

Approved September 25, 1962.

Public Law 87-692

AN ACT

September 25, 1962
[S. 1130]

To amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for family clinics for domestic agricultural migratory workers, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C., ch. 6A, subch. II) is amended by inserting at the end of part A thereof the following new section:

Public health.
Migratory workers.
58 Stat. 691.
42 USC 241-
242g.

"GRANTS FOR FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE CLINICS FOR DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL MIGRATORY WORKERS"

"SEC. 310. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1963, the fiscal year ending June 30, 1964, and the fiscal year ending June 30, 1965, such sums, not to exceed \$3,000,000 for any year, as may be necessary to enable the Surgeon General (1) to make grants to public and other nonprofit agencies, institutions, and organizations for paying part of the cost of (i) establishing and operating family health service clinics for domestic agricultural migratory workers and their families, including training persons to provide services in the establishing and operating of such clinics, and (ii) special projects to improve health services for and the health conditions of domestic agricultural migratory workers and their families, including training persons to provide health services for or otherwise improve the health conditions of such migratory workers and their families, and (2) to encourage and cooperate in programs for the purpose of improving health services for or otherwise improving the health conditions of domestic agricultural migratory workers and their families."

Approved September 25, 1962.