

Introducers Statement of Intent

To modernize Nebraska museum's method of communication to notifying the public regarding undocumented items and unclaimed loans. The speed of digital communication is much faster and a wait time after notification of three years is not needed. One year is sufficient and allows the museum to move forward with the plans for that item in a manageable time frame.

Changing the timeframe to retain all records for at least 25 years meets the American Alliance of Museums required elements of collection's documentation and records. A state requirement of 25 years helps to guide those museums who may not have a Collections Management Policy.

Introduction for Senator Aguillar

What changes do Nebraska Museums want in the Museum Property Act and why.

Overview bullet points by section:

51-703 (4)

We added physical public and online postings of notices to publishing in a newspaper. We believe that modes of communication have changed significantly, and the options for notices need to reflect that. As currently proposed, we want museums to have the opportunity to choose from a variety of options: either newspaper, online and/or posting in a public area of the museum to notify their community. These digital modes of publication will also be available for at least three consecutive weeks.

51-705 (2) & (3)

Propose to reduce the period a museum may acquire title after the organization has held the property for seven years from three years to one. After holding the property for seven years, another three years after notification is too long. Museums are having trouble properly storing these items and they need relief. Digital media moves quickly, one year is sufficient. Loaners

51-708 (1) and (3)

Creating the same time frame for liability as we have for acquiring titles. Change timeframe from three years to one year from the date that the claimant was contacted, or the notice was posted/published. (2) already states a one-year time frame.

51-709 (1)

Increase the time from three to twenty-five years that a museum shall retain all records. Compares exactly with 51-710.

All changes made by this legislative bill become effective immediately to all property acquired by the museum.

What does the bill do?

This bill allows Nebraska museums to gain title to unclaimed loans and undocumented items in their possession by adding digital media to notifying the public in addition to a printed newspaper. Museums

have a shorter wait time of one year rather than three after notification. Without clear title museums cannot/would not properly treat, research, exhibit, or rehome to a more appropriate nonprofit.

This is also beneficial for claimants of undocumented items to find out about these pieces by current modes of communication, and not just in printed newspapers.

This committee brought the changes to the Nebraska Museums Association Board of Directors. They agree with the changes.

Nebraska Museums Association collaborating with Senator Aguilar to change Museum Property Act

The Nebraska Museums Association is working with District 35 Senator Aguilar to modernize Nebraska museum's method of communication regarding undocumented items and unclaimed loans.

These pieces lie in limbo in museums across the state. Without clear title museums cannot/would not properly treat, research, exhibit, or rehome to a more appropriate nonprofit. Passage of this bill (no number assigned yet) allows Nebraska museums to gain title by using digital media to notify the public in addition to printed newspaper postings.

Adding this format increases the speed in which communication is delivered, thus the current wait time after notification of three years is not needed. "Museums across the nation have undocumented items in their collections. Nebraska is not the only state who has requested assistance from state officials to gain title to these pieces" says NMA President Rebecca Matticks.

One year is sufficient and allows the museum to move forward with the plans for that item in a manageable time frame. The Nebraska Museums Association has a membership of _____ museums across the state. The board is comprised of eighteen museum professionals from across the state that fully support the change in legislation.