As Reported by the Senate Insurance, Commerce and Labor Committee

126th General Assembly Regular Session 2005-2006

Sub. S. B. No. 223

Senators Niehaus, Schuring, Spada, Mumper, Jacobson, Clancy

ABILL

To amend sections 121.04, 121.08, 169.01, 169.13, and 1 169.99 and to enact sections 169.14, 169.16, and 169.17 of the Revised Code to statutorily 3 recognize the Division of Unclaimed Funds and the 4 Office of Superintendent of Unclaimed Funds in the 5 Department of Commerce and to require the 6 registration of persons who, for compensation, 7 agree to locate or recover the unclaimed funds of 8 another. 9

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 121.04, 121.08, 169.01, 169.13, and	10
169.99 be amended and sections 169.14, 169.16, and 169.17 of the	11
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	12
Sec. 121.04. Offices are created within the several	13
departments as follows:	14
In the department of commerce:	15
Commissioner of securities;	16
Superintendent of real estate and professional	17
licensing;	
Superintendent of financial institutions;	18

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Fire marshal;	19
Superintendent of labor and worker safety;	20
Beginning on July 1, 1997,	21
Superintendent of liquor control;	22
Superintendent of industrial compliance;	23
Superintendent of unclaimed funds.	24
In the department of administrative services:	25
State architect and engineer;	26
Equal employment opportunity coordinator.	27
In the department of agriculture:	28
Chiefs of divisions as follows:	29
Administration;	30
Animal industry;	31
Dairy;	32
Food safety;	33
Plant industry;	34
Markets;	35
Meat inspection;	36
Consumer analytical laboratory;	37
Amusement ride safety;	38
Enforcement;	39
Weights and measures.	40
In the department of natural resources:	41
Chiefs of divisions as follows:	42
Water;	43
Mineral resources management;	44
Forestry;	45
Natural areas and preserves;	46
Wildlife;	47
Geological survey;	48
Parks and recreation;	49

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of those offices. Except as provided in section 121.07 of the Revised Code, wherever powers are conferred or duties imposed upon any of those officers, the powers and duties shall be construed as vested in the department of commerce.

- (C)(1) There is hereby created in the department of commerce 85 a division of financial institutions, which shall have all powers 86 and perform all duties vested by law in the superintendent of 87 financial institutions. Wherever powers are conferred or duties 88 imposed upon the superintendent of financial institutions, those 89 powers and duties shall be construed as vested in the division of 90 financial institutions. The division of financial institutions 91 shall be administered by a the superintendent of financial 92 institutions. 93
- (2) All provisions of law governing the superintendent of 94 financial institutions shall apply to and govern the 95 superintendent of financial institutions provided for in this 96 section; all authority vested by law in the superintendent of 97 financial institutions with respect to the management of the 98 division of financial institutions shall be construed as vested in 99 the superintendent of financial institutions created by this 100 section with respect to the division of financial institutions 101 provided for in this section; and all rights, privileges, and 102 emoluments conferred by law upon the superintendent of financial 103 institutions shall be construed as conferred upon the 104 superintendent of financial institutions as head of the division 105 of financial institutions. The director of commerce shall not 106 transfer from the division of financial institutions any of the 107 functions specified in division (C)(2) of this section. 108
- (D) There is hereby created in the department of commerce a 109 division of liquor control, which shall have all powers and 110 perform all duties vested by law in the superintendent of liquor 111 control. Wherever powers are conferred or duties are imposed upon 112

the superintendent of liquor control, those powers and duties	113
shall be construed as vested in the division of liquor control.	114
The division of liquor control shall be administered by $\frac{1}{2}$	115
superintendent of liquor control.	116

- (E) The director of commerce shall not be interested, 117 directly or indirectly, in any firm or corporation which is a 118 dealer in securities as defined in sections 1707.01 and 1707.14 of 119 the Revised Code, or in any firm or corporation licensed under 120 sections 1321.01 to 1321.19 of the Revised Code. 121
- (F) The director of commerce shall not have any official 122 connection with a savings and loan association, a savings bank, a 123 bank, a bank holding company, a savings and loan association 124 holding company, a consumer finance company, or a credit union 125 that is under the supervision of the division of financial 126 institutions, or a subsidiary of any of the preceding entities, or 127 be interested in the business thereof. 128
- (G) There is hereby created in the state treasury the 129 division of administration fund. The fund shall receive 130 assessments on the operating funds of the department of commerce 131 in accordance with procedures prescribed by the director of 132 commerce and approved by the director of budget and management. 133 All operating expenses of the division of administration shall be 134 paid from the division of administration fund. 135
- (H) There is hereby created in the department of commerce a 136 division of real estate and professional licensing, which shall be 137 under the control and supervision of the director of commerce. The 138 division of real estate and professional licensing shall be 139 administered by a the superintendent of real estate and 140 professional licensing. The superintendent of real estate and 141 professional licensing shall exercise the powers and perform the 142 functions and duties delegated to the superintendent under 143

section 109.572 of the Revised Code, or coordinate with	176
appropriate federal, state, and local government agencies to	177
accomplish, criminal records checks for the persons whose	178
identities are required to be disclosed by an applicant for the	179
issuance or transfer of a permit, license, certificate of	180
registration, or certification issued or transferred by the	181
department or division. At or before the time of making a request	182
for a criminal records check, the department or division may	183
require any person whose identity is required to be disclosed by	184
an applicant for the issuance or transfer of such a license,	185
permit, certificate of registration, or certification to submit to	186
the department or division valid fingerprint impressions in a	187
format and by any media or means acceptable to the bureau of	188
criminal identification and investigation and, when applicable,	189
the federal bureau of investigation. The department or division	190
may cause the bureau of criminal identification and investigation	191
to conduct a criminal records check through the federal bureau of	192
investigation only if the person for whom the criminal records	193
check would be conducted resides or works outside of this state or	194
has resided or worked outside of this state during the preceding	195
five years, or if a criminal records check conducted by the bureau	196
of criminal identification and investigation within this state	197
indicates that the person may have a criminal record outside of	198
this state.	199

In the case of a criminal records check under section 109.572 200 of the Revised Code, the department or division shall forward to 201 the bureau of criminal identification and investigation the 202 requisite form, fingerprint impressions, and fee described in 203 division (C) of that section. When requested by the department or 204 division in accordance with this section, the bureau of criminal 205 identification and investigation shall request from the federal 206 bureau of investigation any information it has with respect to the 207 person who is the subject of the requested criminal records check 208

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otherwise;	239
(d) Corresponded with the holder concerning such funds;	240
(e) Otherwise indicated an interest in or knowledge of such	241
funds;	242
(f) Transacted business with the holder.	243
(2) "Unclaimed funds" does not include any of the following:	244
(a) Money received or collected under section 9.39 of the Revised Code;	245 246
(b) Any payment or credit due to a business association from a business association representing sums payable to suppliers, or	247 248
payment for services rendered, in the course of business,	249
including, but not limited to, checks or memoranda, overpayments,	250
unidentified remittances, nonrefunded overcharges, discounts,	251
refunds, and rebates;	252
(c) Any payment or credit received by a business association	253
from a business association for tangible goods sold, or services	254
performed, in the course of business, including, but not limited	255
to, checks or memoranda, overpayments, unidentified remittances,	256
nonrefunded overcharges, discounts, refunds, and rebates;	257
(d) Any credit due a retail customer that is represented by a	258
gift certificate, gift card, merchandise credit, or merchandise	259
credit card, redeemable only for merchandise.	260
For purposes of divisions (B)(2)(b) and (c) of this section,	261
"business association" means any corporation, joint venture,	262
business trust, limited liability company, partnership,	263
association, or other business entity composed of one or more	264
individuals, whether or not the entity is for profit.	265
(C) "Owner" means any person, or the person's legal	266
representative, entitled to receive or having a legal or equitable	267
interest in or claim against moneys, rights to moneys, or other	268

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intangible property, subject to this chapter.	269
(D)(1) "Holder" means any person that has possession,	270
custody, or control of moneys, rights to moneys, or other	271
intangible property, or that is indebted to another, if any of the	272
following applies:	273
(a) Such person resides in this state;	274
(b) Such person is formed under the laws of this state;	275
(c) Such person is formed under the laws of the United States	276
and has an office or principal place of business in this state;	277
(d) The records of such person indicate that the last known	278
address of the owner of such moneys, rights to moneys, or other	279
intangible property is in this state;	280
(e) The records of such person do not indicate the last known	281
address of the owner of the moneys, rights to moneys, or other	282
intangible property and the entity originating or issuing the	283
moneys, rights to moneys, or other intangible property is this	284
state or any political subdivision of this state, or is	285
incorporated, organized, created, or otherwise located in this	286
state. Division $(D)(1)(e)$ of this section applies to all moneys,	287
rights to moneys, or other intangible property that is in the	288
possession, custody, or control of such person on or after July	289
22, 1994, whether the moneys, rights to moneys, or other	290
intangible property becomes unclaimed funds prior to or on or	291
after that date.	292
(2) "Holder" does not mean any hospital granted tax-exempt	293
status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or any	294
hospital owned or operated by the state or by any political	295
subdivision. Any entity in order to be exempt from the definition	296
of "holder" pursuant to this division shall make a reasonable,	297
good-faith effort to contact the owner of the unclaimed funds.	298

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(E) "Person" includes a natural person; corporation, whether	299
for profit or not for profit; copartnership; unincorporated	300
association or organization; public authority; estate; trust; two	301
or more persons having a joint or common interest; eleemosynary	302
organization; fraternal or cooperative association; other legal or	303
community entity; the United States government, including any	304
district, territory, possession, officer, agency, department,	305
authority, instrumentality, board, bureau, or court; or any state	306
or political subdivision thereof, including any officer, agency,	307
board, bureau, commission, division, department, authority, court,	308
or instrumentality.	309
(F) "Mortgage funds" means the mortgage insurance fund	310
created by section 122.561 of the Revised Code, and the housing	311
guarantee fund created by division (D) of section 128.11 of the	312
Revised Code.	313
(G) "Lawful claims" means any vested right a holder of	314
unclaimed funds has against the owner of such unclaimed funds.	315
(H) "Public utility" means any entity defined as such by	316
division (A) of section 745.01 or by section 4905.02 of the	317
Revised Code.	318
(I) "Deposit" means to place money in the custody of a	319
financial organization for the purpose of establishing an	320
income-bearing account by purchase or otherwise.	321
(J) "Income-bearing account" means a time or savings account,	322
whether or not evidenced by a certificate of deposit, or an	323
investment account through which investments are made solely in	324
obligations of the United States or its agencies or	325
instrumentalities or guaranteed as to principal and interest by	326
the United States or its agencies or instrumentalities, debt	327
securities rated as investment grade by at least two nationally	328

recognized rating services, debt securities which the director of

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(2) The agreement is in writing, signed by the owner, and	360
<pre>notarized and discloses all of the following items:</pre>	361
(a) The name and address of the owner, as shown by the	362
records of the person or entity in possession of the property;	363
(b) The nature and value of the property;	364
(b)(c) The amount the owner will receive after the fee or	365
compensation has been subtracted;	366
$\frac{(c)(d)}{(d)}$ The name and address of the person or entity in	367
possession of the property:	368
(e) That the person agreeing to locate, deliver, recover, or	369
assist in the recovery of the property is not an employee or agent	370
of the director of commerce;	371
(f) That the director is not a party to the agreement;	372
(g) That the person agreeing to locate, deliver, recover, or	373
assist in the recovery of the property holds a valid certificate	374
of registration issued by the director under section 169.16 of the	375
Revised Code;	376
(h) The number designated on that certificate of registration	377
and the date the certificate of registration expires.	378
(3) If the agreement involves recovery of the contents of a	379
safe deposit box, the agreement stipulates that the person	380
receiving any fee, compensation, commission, or other remuneration	381
for engaging in any activity for the purpose of locating,	382
delivering, recovering, or assisting in the recovery of unclaimed	383
funds or other items stored in a safe deposit box on behalf of any	384
other person shall do all of the following:	385
(a) Make arrangements to have an appraiser and the director	386
of commerce view the contents of the safe deposit box together, at	387
a time mutually agreeable to the appraiser and director;	388

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(b) State that the value of the property in the safe deposit	389
box is the amount established by the appraiser who viewed the safe	390
deposit box contents;	391
(c) Base the fee, compensation, commission, or other	392
remuneration for locating, delivering, recovering, or assisting in	393
the recovery of unclaimed funds or other items stored in a safe	394
deposit box on the appraised value established by the appraiser	395
who viewed the safe deposit box contents.	396
(C) No person shall receive a fee, compensation, commission,	397
or other remuneration, or engage in any activity for the purpose	398
of locating, delivering, recovering, or assisting in the recovery	399
of unclaimed funds, under an agreement that is invalid under this	400
section.	401
(D) Whoever violates division (C) of this section is guilty	402
of a misdemeanor of the first degree for a first offense and of a	403
felony of the fifth degree for each subsequent offense A person	404
who receives any fee, compensation, commission, or other	405
remuneration for engaging in any activity for the purpose of	406
locating, delivering, recovering, or assisting in the recovery of	407
unclaimed funds or other items stored in a safe deposit box on	408
behalf of any other person cannot function as an appraiser of the	409
contents of the safe deposit box for purposes of division (B)(3)	410
of this section.	411
Sec. 169.14. (A) Each person that files a claim with the	412
director of commerce, pursuant to an agreement entered into under	413
section 169.13 of the Revised Code, shall include with that claim	414
the number designated on the certificate of registration that is	415
issued to the person under section 169.16 of the Revised Code.	416
(B) The division of unclaimed funds shall not process any	417
claim described in division (A) of this section that does not	418

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include the required certificate of registration number.	419
Sec. 169.16. (A) No person, on behalf of any other person,	420
shall engage in any activity for the purpose of locating,	421
delivering, recovering, or assisting in the recovery of unclaimed	422
funds, and receive a fee, compensation, commission, or other	423
remuneration for such activity, without first having obtained a	424
certificate of registration from the director of commerce in	425
accordance with this section.	426
(B) An application for a certificate of registration shall be	427
in writing and in the form prescribed by the director. The	428
application shall be accompanied by a recent full-face color	429
photograph of the applicant and notarized character reference	430
letters from two reputable character witnesses. The application	431
shall, at a minimum, provide all of the following:	432
(1) The applicant's full name, home address, and work	433
address;	434
(2) The name, address, and telephone number of the two	435
character witnesses who have provided the character reference	436
<u>letters;</u>	437
(3) A statement that the applicant has not, during the	438
ten-year period immediately preceding the submission of the	439
application, violated division (A) of this section on or after the	440
effective date of this section, or division (C) of section 169.13	441
of the Revised Code, or been convicted of, or pleaded guilty to,	442
any felony or any offense involving moral turpitude, including	443
theft, attempted theft, falsification, tampering with records,	444
securing writings by deception, fraud, forgery, and perjury;	445
(4) The notarized signature of the applicant immediately	446
following an acknowledgment that any false or perjured statement	447
subjects the applicant to criminal liability under section 2921.13	448

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of the Revised Code.	449
(C) Upon the filing of the application with the division of	450
unclaimed funds, the division may investigate the applicant to	451
verify the information provided in the application and to	452
determine the applicant's eligibility for a certificate of	453
registration under this section. False information on an	454
application is grounds for the denial or revocation of the	455
applicant's certificate of registration.	456
(D) The director shall issue a certificate of registration to	457
an applicant if the director finds that the following conditions	458
<pre>are met:</pre>	459
(1) The applicant has not, during the ten-year period	460
immediately preceding the submission of the application, violated	461
division (A) of this section on or after the effective date of	462
this section, or division (C) of section 169.13 of the Revised	463
Code, or been convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, any felony or	464
any offense involving moral turpitude, including theft, attempted	465
theft, falsification, tampering with records, securing writings by	466
deception, fraud, forgery, and perjury.	467
(2) The applicant's character and general fitness command the	468
confidence of the public and warrant the belief that the	469
applicant's business will be conducted honestly and fairly.	470
(E) The certificate of registration issued pursuant to	471
division (D) of this section may be renewed annually if the	472
director finds that the following conditions are met:	473
(1) The applicant submits a renewal application form	474
prescribed by the director.	475
(2) The applicant meets the conditions set forth in division	476
(D) of this section.	477
(3) The applicant's certificate of registration is not	478

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Revised Code;	538
(B) Section 169.14 of the Revised Code;	539
(C) Division (A) of section 169.16 of the Revised Code;	540
(D) Division (B) of section 169.99 of the Revised Code.	541