

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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SENATE BILL 672

Short Title: State Surplus Property/Third-Party Auctions. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators McInnis, Sawyer, and Settle (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 10, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW FOR STATE AGENCIES TO UTILIZE THIRD-PARTY AUCTION
3 SITES FOR THE SALE OR DISPOSITION OF STATE-OWNED PROPERTY.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Part 1 of Article 3A of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes reads as
6 rewritten:

7 "Article 3A.

8 "Surplus Property.

9 "Part 1. State Surplus Property Agency.

10 **"§ 143-64.01. Department of Administration designated State Surplus Property Agency.**

11 The State Surplus Property Agency division within the Department of Administration is
12 designated as the State agency for State surplus property, and with respect to the acquisition of
13 State surplus property the agency shall be subject to the supervision and direction of the Secretary
14 of Administration.

15 **"§ 143-64.02. Definitions.**

16 The following definitions apply in Part 1 of this Article:

17 (1) Agency. – ~~An existing~~ A unit of the executive branch, including any
18 department, institution, commission, committee, board, division, or bureau of
19 the State. The term includes the Council of State, The University of North
20 Carolina, and the State Board of Community Colleges.

21 ...

22 (4) ~~State-owned.~~ State-owned property. – Supplies, materials, and equipment
23 equipment, inventory, farm products, goods, and consumer goods, as those
24 terms are defined in Chapter 25 of the General Statutes, in the possession of
25 the State of North Carolina and purchased with State funds, personal property
26 donated to the State, or personal property purchased with other funds that give
27 ownership to the State. State, or personal property rightfully seized or acquired
28 by the State. The term does not include real property.

29 (5) Surplus property. – ~~Personal~~ State-owned property that is obsolete, unused, or
30 no longer needed by a State agency.

31 **"§ 143-64.03. Powers and duties of the State agency for surplus property.**

32 (a) The State Surplus Property Agency is authorized and directed ~~to do the following:~~

33 (1) ~~Self~~ Coordinate the sale of all State owned supplies, materials, and equipment
34 that are surplus, obsolete, or unused surplus property and self all seized
35 vehicles and other conveyances that the State Surplus Property Agency is
36 authorized to ~~sell;~~ sell.



1 (2) Warehouse such ~~property; and~~ property.

2 (3) Distribute such property to tax-supported or nonprofit tax-exempt
3 organizations.

4 (b) The State Surplus Property Agency is authorized and empowered to act as a
5 clearinghouse of information for agencies and private nonprofit tax-exempt organizations, to
6 locate property available for acquisition from State agencies, to ascertain the terms and conditions
7 under which the property may be obtained, to receive requests from agencies and private
8 nonprofit tax-exempt organizations, and transmit all available information about the property,
9 and to aid and assist the agencies and private nonprofit tax-exempt organizations in transactions
10 for the acquisition of ~~State~~ surplus property. Prioritization should be given to distributing
11 computer equipment to nonprofit entities that refurbish computers and donate them to
12 low-income students or households in this State, the State Surplus Property Agency shall
13 distribute the computer equipment at no cost or the lowest possible cost to the nonprofit entities
14 and must give consideration to the counties where the computer equipment will be donated to
15 ensure that all geographic regions of the State benefit from the distributions.

16 (b1) Nothing in this Article, or any administrative rules promulgated under this Article,
17 shall be deemed to prohibit The University of North Carolina from conveying surplus computer
18 equipment at no cost and The University of North Carolina is encouraged to prioritize distribution
19 to nonprofit entities that refurbish computers to donate to low-income students or households in
20 the State. Any conveyance to a nonprofit under this subsection shall be conditioned upon, and in
21 consideration of, the nonprofit's promise to refurbish the computer equipment and its donation to
22 low-income students or households in the State and the nonprofit's reporting of information
23 required by this subsection. After an initial conveyance, The University of North Carolina shall
24 not convey additional surplus computer equipment to a nonprofit, unless that nonprofit has
25 reported the information required by this subsection for prior conveyances.

26 When making a distribution under this subsection, The University of North Carolina shall
27 keep records on the type of computer equipment distributed, the number distributed, the name of
28 the nonprofit that received the distributions, and the nonprofit's report on donations of refurbished
29 computers to low-income students or households in the State. If the nonprofit is unable to
30 refurbish computer equipment for any reason, its report shall include the disposition of such
31 computer equipment. A nonprofit shall provide a report to the Board of Governors of The
32 University of North Carolina by February 1, 2022, and by February 1 of each year thereafter. The
33 report shall contain the information required by this subsection and any other information the
34 Board of Governors deems reasonably necessary to ensure the conditions required under this
35 subsection are satisfied. The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall
36 submit a report containing the information required to be collected under this subsection to the
37 Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by December 1, 2022, and by December 1 of
38 each year thereafter.

39 (c) The State ~~agency for surplus property, Surplus Property Agency,~~ in the administration
40 of Part 1 of this Article, shall cooperate to the fullest extent consistent with the provisions of Part
41 1 of this Article, with the departments or agencies of the State.

42 (d) The State ~~agency for surplus property~~ Surplus Property Agency may sell or otherwise
43 dispose of surplus property, including motor vehicles, through an electronic auction service or
44 any third-party auction service. The General Assembly and the Judicial Department may sell or
45 otherwise dispose of State-owned or surplus property within their possession and control.

46 **"§ 143-64.03A. Third-party auctions; auction procedures; reporting.**

47 (a) An agency may utilize a third-party auction service by submitting a petition to the
48 State Surplus Property Agency for approval. All petitions submitted under this subsection shall
49 be approved unless one or more of the circumstances listed in subsection (b) of this section apply.
50 The State Surplus Property Agency shall approve or deny a petition submitted under this
51 subsection within 30 days of submission and shall transmit the approval or denial to the agency

1 in writing. A denial of a petition shall include a detailed justification for the denial under one or
2 more of the circumstances listed in subsection (b) of this section. Within 30 days of receiving a
3 denial, an agency may appeal the denial by submitting a written appeal to the Secretary of
4 Administration detailing why the denial of the petition under subsection (b) of this section was
5 improper. The Secretary of Administration may uphold the initial petition denial or approve the
6 petition as submitted.

7 (b) The State Surplus Property Agency may deny a petition to use a third-party auction
8 service submitted under this section if one or more of the following circumstances apply:

9 (1) The third-party auction service has had a license denied, suspended, or
10 revoked pursuant to Chapter 85B of the General Statutes or faced any other
11 similar disciplinary action by a State or federal governmental entity.

12 (2) The third-party auction service is or was debarred from entering into contracts
13 by the Department of Administration pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 143 of
14 the General Statutes.

15 (3) The third-party auction service charges the State a fee, or any combination of
16 fees to the State, that exceeds eight percent (8%) of the final selling price of
17 the item.

18 (c) Upon a finding that one or more of the circumstances listed in subsection (b) of this
19 section apply, a prior approval of a petition to use a third-party auction service under this section
20 is subject to revocation by the State Surplus Property Agency upon written notice to the agency
21 utilizing the third-party auction service. Within 30 days of receiving the notice of revocation, an
22 agency may appeal the revocation by submitting a written appeal to the Secretary of
23 Administration detailing why the revocation was improper. The Secretary of Administration may
24 uphold or rescind the notice of revocation.

25 (d) All items that are listed through a third-party auction site or through a Department of
26 Administration auction site shall be listed a minimum of three times before disposal of the item.
27 An agency may dispose of items that have not sold after three attempts. All items, whether the
28 item is sold by a third-party auction service or by the Department of Administration in-house
29 auction platform, that are valued at one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or more based on fair market
30 value shall have a minimum bid price set at no less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the fair
31 market value of the item. Fair market value shall be determined by the selling agency or, at the
32 selling agency's discretion, by a certified appraiser licensed pursuant to Chapter 95E of the
33 General Statutes. If an agency chooses to use a third-party auction service, the agency must first
34 report the item to the State Surplus Property Agency. Items listed through a third-party auction
35 service may be stored at a location chosen by the agency, including the State Surplus Property
36 warehouse, an agency facility, or a third-party auction service facility.

37 (e) Each agency shall keep a record of items sold through third-party auction services
38 and items that were disposed of. The following information shall be retained by the agency for a
39 period of three years:

40 (1) The name of the item listed on the third-party auction site, along with any
41 identifiable information used in the sale or disposition of the item.

42 (2) The final bid amount for the item.

43 (3) The amount received by the agency for the sale or disposition of the item.

44 (4) The amount paid to the third-party auction service, if any.

45 (5) If disposed after being unable to sell, the manner of disposition.

46 (f) On January 1, and then annually thereafter, each agency utilizing a third-party auction
47 service shall submit to the Joint Legislative Oversight Commission on General Government a
48 report that includes the following:

49 (1) A listing of the third-party auction services that were used to sell surplus
50 items.

51 (2) The total funds received by sales through each auction service.

1 (3) The total funds distributed to each agency.
2 (4) The total funds disbursed to the Department of Administration.
3 (g) On January 1, and then annually thereafter, the State Surplus Property Agency shall
4 submit to the Joint Legislative Commission on General Government a report that includes the
5 following:

- 6 (1) The number of petitions submitted from agencies under this section.
7 (2) The number of petitions from agencies that were denied.
8 (3) A detailed justification of why each petition was denied.
9 (4) The results of any appeals that were submitted to the Secretary of
10 Administration.

11 Once a petition has been approved, the agency shall be allowed to continue using the
12 third-party auction service, unless the approval is revoked pursuant to subsection (c) of this
13 section.

14 **"§ 143-64.04. Powers of the Secretary to delegate authority.**

15 (a) The Secretary of Administration may delegate to any employees of the State ~~agency~~
16 ~~for surplus property~~ Surplus Property Agency such power and authority as ~~he or they deem the~~
17 Secretary deems reasonable and proper for the effective administration of Part 1 of this Article.
18 The Secretary of Administration may, in ~~his~~ the Secretary's discretion, bond any person in the
19 employ of the State ~~agency for surplus property,~~ Surplus Property Agency handling moneys,
20 signing checks, or receiving or distributing property from the United States under authority of
21 Part 1 of this Article.

22 (b) The Secretary of Administration may adopt rules necessary to carry out Part 1 of this
23 Article.

24 **"§ 143-64.05. Service charge; receipts.**

25 (a) The State ~~agency for surplus property~~ Surplus Property Agency may assess and
26 collect a service charge (i) for the acquisition, receipt, warehousing, distribution, or transfer of
27 any State surplus property; (ii) for the transfer or sale of recyclable material; and (iii) for the
28 towing, storing, processing, maintaining, and selling of motor vehicles seized pursuant to
29 G.S. 20-28.3. The service charge authorized by this subsection does not apply to the transfer or
30 sale of timber on land owned by the Wildlife Resources Commission or the Department of
31 Agriculture and Consumer Services. No fee or service charge may be assessed or charged to an
32 agency utilizing a third-party auction service pursuant to G.S. 143-64.03A.

33 "

34 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.