

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 512

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1801S.02T

2003

AN ACT

To repeal sections 415.405, 415.410, 415.415, and 415.420, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to warehouse and self-service storage facilities.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 415.405, 415.410, 415.415, and 415.420, RSMo, are repealed and
2 four new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 415.405, 415.410, 415.415,
3 and 415.420, to read as follows:

415.405. As used in sections 415.400 to 415.430, the following terms shall mean:

2 (1) "Default", the failure to perform on time any obligation or duty set forth in a rental
3 agreement;

4 (2) "Last known address", that address provided by the occupant in the rental agreement
5 or the address provided by the occupant in a subsequent written notice of a change of address;

6 (3) "Leased space", the individual storage space at the self-service facility which is
7 rented to an occupant pursuant to a rental agreement;

8 **(4) "No commercial value", any property offered for sale in a commercially**
9 **reasonable manner that receives no bid or offer;**

10 [(4)] **(5)** "Occupant", a person, lessee, sublessee, successor or assignee entitled to the
11 use of a leased space at a self-service storage facility under a rental agreement;

12 [(5)] **(6)** "Operator", the owner, operator, lessor or sublessor of a self-service storage
13 facility, or an agent or any other person authorized to manage the facility; except that, the term
14 "operator" does not include a warehouseman, unless the operator issues a warehouse receipt, bill
15 of lading, or other document of title for the personal property stored;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law. Matter in boldface type in the above law is proposed language.

16 [(6)] (7) "Personal property", movable property which is not affixed to land, including,
17 but not limited to, goods, wares, merchandise, motor vehicles, watercraft, household items, and
18 furnishings;

19 (8) "**Private sale**", **an unadvertised sale negotiated and concluded directly between**
20 **the buyer and seller;**

21 (9) "**Public sale**", **a sale made after public notice;**

22 [(7)] (10) "Rental agreement", any written contract or agreement that establishes or
23 modifies the terms, conditions or rules concerning the use and occupancy of a self-service
24 storage facility, which is signed by the occupant and the operator;

25 [(8)] (11) "Self-service storage facility", any real property used for renting or leasing
26 individual storage spaces in which the occupants themselves customarily store and remove their
27 own personal property on a self-service basis.

415.410. 1. An operator may not knowingly permit a leased space at a self-service
2 storage facility to be used for residential purposes. An occupant may not use a leased space for
3 residential purposes.

4 2. An operator may enter leased space at all times which are reasonably necessary to
5 insure the protection and preservation of the self-service storage facility or any personal property
6 stored therein.

7 3. Prior to placing any personal property into his **or her** leased space, each occupant
8 shall deliver a written statement to the operator of such leased space containing the name and
9 address of each person having a valid lien against such personal property.

10 4. The lessee shall be informed in writing that the lessor either does or does not have
11 [liability] **casualty insurance on the lessee's property.**

415.415. 1. The operator of a self-service storage facility has a lien on all personal
2 property stored within each leased space for rent, labor, or other charges, and for expenses
3 reasonably incurred in sale of such personal property, as provided in sections 415.400 to
4 415.430. The lien established by this subsection shall have priority over all other liens except
5 those liens that have been perfected and recorded, on personal property. The rental agreement
6 shall contain a statement, in bold type, advising the occupant of the existence of such lien and
7 that property stored in the leased space may be sold to satisfy such lien if the occupant is in
8 default, and that any proceeds from the sale of the property which remain after satisfaction of the
9 lien will be paid to the state treasurer if unclaimed by the occupant within one year after the sale
10 of the property.

11 2. If the occupant is in default for a period of more than thirty days, the operator may
12 enforce the lien granted in subsection 1 of this section and sell the property stored in the leased
13 space for cash. Sale of the property stored on the premises may be done at a public or private

14 sale, may be done as a unit or in parcels, or may be by way of one or more contracts, and may
15 be at any time or place and on any terms as long as the sale is done in a commercially reasonable
16 manner in accordance with the provisions of section [400.9-507] **400.9-627**, RSMo. The
17 operator may otherwise dispose of any property which has no commercial value.

18 3. The proceeds of any sale made under this subsection shall be applied to satisfy the
19 lien, with any surplus being held for delivery on demand to the occupant or any other lienholders
20 which the operator knows of or which are contained in the statement filed by the occupant
21 pursuant to subsection 3 of section 415.410 for a period of one year after receipt of proceeds of
22 the sale and satisfaction of the lien. No proceeds shall be paid to an occupant until such occupant
23 files a sworn affidavit with the operator stating that there are no other valid liens outstanding
24 against the property sold and that he **or she**, the occupant, shall indemnify the operator for any
25 damages incurred or moneys paid by the operator due to claims arising from other lienholders
26 of the property sold. After the one-year period set in this subsection, any proceeds remaining
27 after satisfaction of the lien shall be considered abandoned property to be reported and paid to
28 the state treasurer in accordance with laws pertaining to the disposition of unclaimed property.

29 4. Before conducting a sale under subsection 2 of this section, the operator shall:

30 (1) At least forty-five days before any disposition of property under this section, **which**
31 **shall run concurrently with subsection 2 of this section**, notify the occupant and each
32 lienholder [which the operator knows of or] which is contained in any statement filed by the
33 occupant pursuant to subsection 3 of section 415.410 of the default by first-class mail at the
34 occupant's or lienholder's last known address;

35 (2) No later than ten days after mailing the notice required in subdivision (1) of this
36 subsection, mail a second notice of default, by registered or certified mail, to the occupant at the
37 occupant's or lienholder's last known address, which notice shall include:

38 (a) A statement that the contents of the occupant's leased space are subject to the
39 operator's lien;

40 (b) A statement of the operator's claim, indicating the charges due on the date of the
41 notice, the amount of any additional charges which shall become due before the date of release
42 for sale and the date those additional charges shall become due;

43 (c) A demand for payment of the charges due within a specified time, not less than ten
44 days after the date on which the second notice was mailed;

45 (d) A statement that unless the claim is paid within the time stated, the contents of the
46 occupant's space will be sold after a specified time; and

47 (e) The name, street address and telephone number of the operator, or a designated agent
48 whom the occupant may contact, to respond to the notice;

49 (3) At least seven days before the sale, advertise the time, place and terms of the sale in

50 a newspaper of general circulation in the jurisdiction where the sale is to be held. Such
51 advertisement shall be in the classified section of the newspaper and shall state that the items will
52 be released for sale.

53 5. At any time before a sale under this section, the occupant may pay the amount
54 necessary to satisfy the lien and redeem the occupant's personal property.

415.420. 1. A purchaser in good faith of any personal property sold under sections
2 415.400 to 415.430 takes the property free and clear of any rights of any persons against whom
3 the lien was valid and other lienholders.

4 2. If the operator complies with the provisions of sections 415.400 to 415.430, the
5 operator's liability to the occupant shall be limited to the net proceeds received from the sale of
6 the personal property, and to other lienholders shall be limited to the net proceeds received from
7 the sale of any personal property covered by the other lien.

8 3. If an occupant is in default, [once the operator has given the occupant notice under
9 subdivision (1) of subsection 4 of section 415.415,] the operator may deny the occupant access
10 to the leased space.

11 4. Unless otherwise specifically provided in sections 415.400 to 415.430, all notices
12 required by sections 415.400 to 415.430 shall be sent by registered or certified mail. Notices sent
13 to the operator shall be sent to the self-service storage facility where the occupant's property is
14 stored. Notices to the occupant shall be sent to the occupant at the occupant's last known
15 address. Notices shall be deemed delivered when deposited with the United States postal
16 service, properly addressed as provided in subsection 4 of section 415.415, with postage prepaid.