

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-ninth Legislature
First Regular Session
2009

HOUSE BILL 2435

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 33-1701, 33-1703 AND 33-1704, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;
RELATING TO SELF-SERVICE STORAGE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 33-1701, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 33-1701. Definitions; exception

5 A. In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 1. "Default" means the failure to perform on time any obligation or
7 duty set forth in the rental agreement.

8 2. "Department" means the Arizona game and fish department in the case
9 of motorized watercraft and the department of transportation in the case of
10 all other vehicles.

11 3. "Last known address" means that address provided by the occupant in
12 the rental agreement or the address provided by the occupant in a subsequent
13 written notice of a change of address.

14 4. "Late fee" means a reasonable fee or charge that is assessed by the
15 operator for the failure of the occupant to pay rent when due pursuant to
16 section 33-1703, subsection D.

17 5. "Leased space" means the ~~individual~~ storage space **OR SPACES** at the
18 self-service storage facility ~~which is~~ **THAT ARE** rented to an occupant
19 pursuant to a rental agreement.

20 6. "Net proceeds" means the total proceeds received from the lien sale
21 less the total amount of the lien.

22 7. "Occupant" means a person or ~~his~~ **THE PERSON'S** sublessee, successor
23 or assign, entitled to the use of ~~a~~ **THE** leased space at a self-service
24 storage facility under a rental agreement, to the exclusion of others.

25 8. "Operator" means the owner, operator, lessor or sublessor of a
26 self-service storage facility, an agent or any other person authorized to
27 manage the facility.

28 9. "Personal property" means movable property that is not affixed to
29 land and includes but is not limited to goods, wares, merchandise, household
30 items and furnishings and vehicles.

31 10. "Registered owner" means an owner of a vehicle as stated in the
32 official records of the department.

33 11. "Rental agreement" means any written agreement provided to the
34 occupant ~~which~~ **THAT** establishes or modifies the terms, conditions or rules
35 concerning the use and occupancy of **LEASED SPACE AT** a self-service storage
36 facility.

37 12. "Self-service storage facility" means any real property used for
38 renting or leasing ~~individual~~ storage spaces in which the occupants
39 themselves customarily store and remove their own personal property on a
40 self-service basis.

41 13. "Vehicle" means a motor vehicle, a trailer or a semitrailer as
42 defined in section 28-101 and a motorized watercraft as defined in section
43 5-301.

44 14. **"VERIFIED MAIL" MEANS ANY METHOD OF MAILING THAT IS OFFERED BY THE**
45 **UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AND THAT PROVIDES EVIDENCE OF MAILING.**

1 B. This article does not apply to a warehouseman unless the
2 warehouseman issues a warehouse receipt, bill of lading or other document of
3 title for the personal property stored.

4 Sec. 2. Section 33-1703, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:
5 33-1703. Lien; rental agreement; contents; late fees

6 A. The operator of a self-service storage facility has a possessory
7 lien from the date the rent is unpaid and due on all personal property stored
8 within ~~each~~ THE leased space for rent, late fees, ~~AND~~ labor or other
9 charges, and for expenses reasonably incurred in its sale, as provided in
10 this article. The lien shall not impair any other lien or security interest
11 at the time the storage was commenced, unless the lienor or secured party
12 knows and consents to the storage of the personal property.

13 B. The rental agreement shall contain a statement, in at least ten
14 point bold-faced type, advising the occupant:

15 1. Of the accrual of the lien as of the date the rent is unpaid and
16 due.

17 2. That property stored in the leased space may be sold to satisfy the
18 lien if the occupant is in default.

19 3. That any insurance protecting the personal property stored within
20 the storage space against fire, theft or damage must be provided by the
21 occupant.

22 4. That a late fee may be charged by the operator for each month that
23 the occupant does not pay rent when due. The rental agreement shall state
24 the date on which rent is due and the date on which the late fee accrues.

25 C. The rental agreement shall contain a provision requiring the
26 occupant to disclose any lienholders or secured parties who have an interest
27 in property that is or will be stored in the self-service storage facility.

28 D. The operator may impose a reasonable late fee on the occupant for
29 each month the occupant does not pay rent when due. For purposes of this
30 section, a reasonable late fee may be computed as the greater of ten dollars
31 per month or twenty per cent of the amount of monthly rent. Any late fee
32 imposed by the operator pursuant to this section is in addition to any other
33 remedy provided by law or contract.

34 E. The operator shall provide adequate notice to the occupant before a
35 late fee is imposed. Adequate notice is provided if the rental agreement
36 complies with subsection B or if a notice is sent to the occupant by
37 ~~certified~~ VERIFIED mail that notifies the occupant that a late fee may be
38 charged in any month in which the occupant does not pay rent when due.

39 Sec. 3. Section 33-1704, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:
40 33-1704. Enforcement of lien

41 A. If the occupant is in default for a period of more than thirty
42 days, the operator may foreclose the lien by selling the property stored in
43 the leased space at a public sale, for cash. Proceeds shall then be applied
44 as provided in subsection E of this section. If the contents of the

1 ~~occupant's~~ LEASED space include a vehicle, ~~the provisions of~~ section 28-4839
2 ~~do~~ DOES not apply.

3 B. Before conducting a sale under subsection A of this section, the
4 operator shall:

5 1. ~~Notify the occupant~~ SEND NOTICE of the default by ~~certified mail,~~
6 ~~return receipt requested,~~ VERIFIED MAIL TO THE OCCUPANT at the occupant's
7 last known address.

8 2. Send a second notice of default by ~~regular~~ FIRST CLASS mail not
9 less than seven days after the mailing date of the first notice to the
10 occupant at the occupant's last known address ~~which~~ THAT includes:

11 (a) A statement that the contents of the occupant's leased space are
12 subject to the operator's lien.

13 (b) A statement of the operator's claim, indicating the charges due on
14 the date of the notice and any other charges that may accrue.

15 (c) A demand for payment of the charges due within a specified time,
16 not less than fourteen days after the mailing date of the second notice or
17 thirty additional days if the address of the occupant is outside of the
18 continental United States.

19 (d) A statement that unless the claim is paid within the time stated
20 the contents of the ~~occupant's~~ LEASED space will be sold at a specified time
21 and place.

22 (e) The name, street address and telephone number of the operator, or
23 ~~his~~ THE OPERATOR'S designated agent, whom the occupant may contact to respond
24 to the notice.

25 3. If the contents of the ~~occupant's~~ LEASED space include a vehicle:

26 (a) At the time the notice is sent pursuant to paragraph 1 of this
27 subsection, send a notice of default by ~~certified mail, return receipt~~
28 ~~requested,~~ VERIFIED MAIL to the registered owner at the registered owner's
29 most recent address as shown in the records of the department.

30 (b) At the time the notice is sent pursuant to paragraph 2 of this
31 subsection, send a notice of default by ~~regular~~ FIRST CLASS mail to the
32 registered owner at the registered owner's most recent address as shown in
33 the records of the department.

34 (c) The operator is not required to send a notice pursuant to this
35 paragraph if ownership information for a vehicle is unavailable.

36 (d) In any notice that is sent, include a description of the vehicle
37 and its vehicle identification number.

38 4. At least ten days ~~prior to~~ BEFORE the sale, ~~notify~~ SEND NOTICE by
39 ~~certified mail, return receipt requested~~ VERIFIED MAIL TO any record
40 lienholder or secured party who has an interest in the property to be sold,
41 of whom the operator has actual or constructive knowledge either through the
42 disclosure provision of the rental agreement or through any other written or
43 recorded notice of the sale, that any prior record lienor or secured party
44 may at any time ~~prior to~~ BEFORE the sale recover possession of the item of
45 personal property to which the record lien or security interest attaches.

1 ~~5. At the time the operator sends the second notice to the occupant,~~
2 ~~publish a notice indicating the date, time and place of the sale and a~~
3 ~~description of the property to be sold. This notice shall be published once~~
4 ~~a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the~~
5 ~~county where the self-service storage facility is located. If there is no~~
6 ~~newspaper of general circulation in the county where the self-service storage~~
7 ~~facility is located, the notice shall be posted at least ten days before the~~
8 ~~date of the sale in not less than six conspicuous places in the neighborhood~~
9 ~~where the self-service storage facility is located.~~

10 C. At any time before a sale under this section, the occupant may pay
11 the amount necessary to satisfy the lien and redeem the occupant's personal
12 property.

13 D. If the personal property includes a vehicle, any person listed as a
14 registered owner or lienholder on the records of the department may pay the
15 amount necessary to satisfy the lien, redeem the vehicle and recover
16 possession of the vehicle. The operator is not liable to the occupant or any
17 other person who claims an interest in the vehicle if the operator releases
18 the vehicle to a person listed as a registered owner or lienholder pursuant
19 to this subsection.

20 E. If a sale is held under this section, the operator shall distribute
21 the proceeds in the following manner:

- 22 1. To pay all reasonable costs of sale.
- 23 2. To satisfy the valid claims of any lienholder or secured party not
24 otherwise subordinated pursuant to section 33-1703, subsection A.
- 25 3. To satisfy the operator's lien.
- 26 4. To satisfy the valid claims of any record lienholder or secured
27 party subordinated pursuant to section 33-1703, subsection A.
- 28 5. To the occupant on demand.
- 29 6. If the occupant does not claim the balance due to ~~him~~ **THE OCCUPANT**
30 within ninety days of the sale, the operator shall pay the balance to the
31 department of revenue. If the occupant, at any time within two years from
32 the date of payment to the department of revenue, establishes ~~his~~ **THE**
33 **OCCUPANT'S** right to the money to the satisfaction of the director of the
34 department of administration, it shall be paid to ~~him~~ **THE OCCUPANT**. After
35 two years, all unclaimed monies shall be deposited in the permanent state
36 school fund.

37 **F. IF FIVE OR MORE BIDDERS WHO ARE UNRELATED TO THE OPERATOR ARE IN**
38 **ATTENDANCE AT A SALE HELD UNDER THIS SECTION, THE SALE AND ITS PROCEEDS ARE**
39 **DEEMED TO BE COMMERCIALY REASONABLE.**

40 ~~F.~~ G. A purchaser in good faith of any personal property sold under
41 this article takes the property free and clear of any rights of any party.

42 ~~G.~~ H. If the operator complies with this article, the operator's
43 liability arising from the sale:

- 44 1. To the occupant is limited to the net proceeds received from the
45 sale of the personal property.

1 2. To other lienholders or a secured party is limited to the net
2 proceeds received from the sale of any personal property covered by that
3 other lien.

4 ~~H.~~ I. If an occupant is in default, the operator may deny the
5 occupant access to the leased space.

6 ~~I.~~ J. Unless the rental agreement specifically provides otherwise and
7 until a lien sale under this article, the exclusive care, custody and control
8 of all personal property stored in the leased ~~self-service-storage~~ space
9 remain vested in the occupant. If the occupant is in default for a period of
10 more than thirty days and until the time of sale, the operator ~~may~~, in
11 addition to denying the occupant access to the personal property, ~~MAY~~
12 transfer the personal property to a place of safekeeping.