1 A bill to be entitled

An act relating to secondhand dealers; amending s. 538.04, F.S.; requiring that the record of a secondhand dealer transaction include digital photos of the items; amending s. 538.06, F.S.; increasing the required holding period for certain goods acquired by a dealer; amending s. 538.08, F.S.; authorizing an action in replevin against a secondhand dealer based on a right of possession to stolen goods; revising the form for a complaint for return of stolen goods; providing that a claimant in a replevin action is entitled to certain summary procedure; providing that is a noncriminal violation for a secondhand dealer to have not previously returned property under certain circumstances to an owner or lienor who prevailed in a replevin action; providing a penalty; providing an effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of section 538.04, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (d) and (e), respectively, and a new paragraph (c) is added to that subsection to read:

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538.04 Recordkeeping requirements; penalties.-

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(1) A secondhand dealer shall complete a secondhand

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dealers transaction form at the time of the actual transaction. A secondhand dealer shall maintain a copy of a completed transaction form on the registered premises for at least 1 year after the date of the transaction. However, the secondhand dealer shall maintain a copy of the transaction form for not less than 3 years. Unless other arrangements are agreed upon by the secondhand dealer and the appropriate law enforcement official, the secondhand dealer shall, within 24 hours after acquiring any secondhand goods, deliver to such official a record of the transaction on a form approved by the Department of Law Enforcement. Such record shall contain:

- (c) Digital photos of the goods, clearly showing the items required to be included on the record as provided in paragraph (b).
- Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 538.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 538.06 Holding period.-

- (1) (a) A secondhand dealer shall not sell, barter, exchange, alter, adulterate, use, or in any way dispose of any secondhand good that is:
- 1. A precious metal, a gemstone, jewelry, an antique furnishing, fixture, or decorative object, or an item of art as defined in s. 686.501 within 30 calendar days after the date on which the good was acquired.
- 2. Not described in subparagraph 1. goods within 15 calendar days after of the date on which the good was acquired

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of acquisition of the goods.

Such holding periods are not applicable when the person known by the secondhand dealer to be the person from whom the goods were acquired desires to redeem, repurchase, or recover the goods, provided the dealer can produce the record of the original transaction with verification that the customer is the person from whom the goods were originally acquired.

(b) As used in this subsection, the term "antique" means the item is at least 30 years old and has special value because of its age.

Section 3. Section 538.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

538.08 Stolen goods; complaint petition for return.-

(1) If the secondhand dealer contests the identification, or ownership, or right of possession of the property, the person alleging ownership or right of possession of the property may, provided that a timely report of the theft of the goods was made to the proper authorities, bring an action for replevin in the county or circuit court. The complaint may be by petition in substantially the following form:

Plaintiff A. B. sues defendant C. D., and alleges:

- 1. This is an action to recover possession of personal property in ...... County, Florida.
- 2. The description of the property is: ...(list property).... To the best of plaintiff's knowledge, information,

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and belief, the value of the property is \$..........

- 3. Plaintiff is the lawful owner of the property or is entitled to the possession of the property under a security agreement dated ....., ...(year)..., a copy of which is attached.
- 4. To plaintiff's best knowledge, information, and belief, the property is located at ......
- 5. The property is wrongfully detained by defendant. Defendant came into possession of the property by ... (describe method of possession).... To plaintiff's best knowledge, information, and belief, defendant detains the property because ... (give reasons)....
- 6. The property has not been taken under an execution or attachment against plaintiff's property.
- (2) The filing fees shall be waived by the clerk of the court, and the service fees shall be waived by the sheriff. The court shall award the prevailing party attorney attorney's fees and costs. In addition, when the filing party prevails in the replevin action, the court shall order payment of filing fees to the clerk and service fees to the sheriff.
- (3) Upon the filing of the <u>complaint</u> petition, the court shall set a hearing to be held at the earliest possible time.

  The claimant is entitled to the summary procedure provided in s.

  51.011. Upon the receipt of the complaint a petition for a write by a secondhand dealer, the <u>secondhand</u> dealer shall hold the property at issue until the court determines the respective

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105 interests of the parties.

- (4) In addition to the civil <u>complaint</u> petition for return remedy, the state may file a motion as part of a pending criminal case related to the property. The criminal court has jurisdiction to determine ownership, to order return or other disposition of the property, and to order any appropriate restitution to any person. Such order shall be entered upon hearing after proper notice has been given to the secondhand dealer, the victim, and the defendant in the criminal case.
- (5) A secondhand dealer commits a noncriminal violation, punishable pursuant to s. 775.083 by a fine of up to \$2,500, if:
- (a) The owner or lienor who prevailed in the replevin action made a written demand for return of the property and provided proof of ownership or proof of the right of possession to the secondhand dealer at least five calendar days before filing the replevin action;
- (b) The secondhand dealer knew or should have known based on the proof provided under paragraph (a) that the property belonged to the owner or lienor; and
- (c) The secondhand dealer did not file an action for interpleader to determine conflicting claims to the property.

  Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.