



CHAPTER 121

ARTICLE 5 - MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES REPOSITORY PROPERTY

N.C.G.S. § 121-52.

Acquisition of title to loaned property.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	No amendment history on record	21 September 2026, 01:24 UTC	6d5ea9b038513946eac66c60 - fd4a29ca8c468d4b30f63961 - 32f7d32ec1ebe527

§ 121-52(a)

A museum or archives repository may acquire the title to documented property loaned to the museum or archives repository if (i) the term of the loan has expired and at least seven years have passed without written or other contact between the lender and the museum or archives repository or (ii) the term of the loan does not have an expiration date but at least seven years have passed without written or other contact between the lender and the museum or archives repository since the loan was made.

§ 121-52(b)

To acquire title to property under this section, the museum or archives repository shall first send a notice by certified mail to the lender's last known address. The notice must include all of the following:

- (1) The lender's name and last known address.
- (2) A brief and general description of the property.
- (3) A statement that the term of the loan has been terminated.
- (4) The date or approximate date, if known, when the owner loaned the property to the museum or archives repository.
- (5) The name, address, and telephone number of the museum or archives repository representative to contact for more information or to claim ownership.
- (6) A statement that outlines the schedule and requirements for the museum or archives repository to acquire title under this section.

§ 121-52(c)

If a valid claim to the property is not received by the museum or archives repository within 30 days from the date the notice was mailed, or if the museum or archives repository does not have an address for the lender, the museum or archives repository shall comply with the following:

- (1) If the property has an estimated value in excess of \$10,000, the museum or archives repository shall make a reasonable effort to locate and inform the owner, the owner's heirs or successors and publish a notice for no less than 365 consecutive days on an official website created by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for such purpose.
- (2) If the property has an estimated value that is less than or equal to \$10,000, the museum or archives repository shall make a reasonable effort to locate and inform the owner, the owner's heirs or successors and publish a notice for no less than 180 consecutive days on an official website created by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for such purpose.
- (3) The notices required by subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection shall include all of the following:

a. The information described in subdivisions (1) through (5) of subsection (b) of this section.

b. A digital image of the property and any documentation executed by the parties.

c. The date that the notice was posted.

d. The date that the notice will be removed from the museum or archives repository's official website and a statement that the museum or archives repository will acquire title to the loaned property if a valid claim to the property is not received by the museum or archives repository within 45 days of that date.

§ 121-52(d)

If the requirements of this section are satisfied and if a valid claim to the loaned property is received by the museum or archives repository within 45 days after the date of the last publication of the notice required by subsection (c) of this section, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall have 45 days to determine whether the claim is valid and that the claimant is the legal owner of the artifact. If the Department determines that the claim is valid and that the claimant is the legal owner of the artifact, the Department shall return the artifact to the owner at the owner's expense.

§ 121-52(e)

If the requirements of this section are satisfied and if a valid claim to the loaned property is not received by the museum or archives repository within 45 days after the date of the last publication of the notice required by subsection (c) of this section, the museum or archives repository acquires the title to the property on the forty-sixth day after the date of the last publication of the notice under subsection (c) of this section. Upon acquiring title, the museum or archives repository shall own the property free and clear from all claims of ownership. (2015-218, s. 2; 2015-241, s. 14.30(c); 2025-25, s. 29(5).)

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 121-52 (2026).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 121-52(a) (2026).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

This document reproduces the text of one section of the General Statutes of North Carolina from a source file whose SHA-256 digest is printed on every page. The digest fixes the bytes this export was made from; if the State's file changes, the digest will not match.

The text of the section is unaltered. Subsection designators have been moved from the run of text into the margin. The amendment history and the table of authorities are derived from the section by mechanical extraction — they add no characterization of the law.

This is not the official text. The official text is published by the General Assembly of North Carolina.

