

- 1 HB13
- 2 U28MGDG-1
- 3 By Representative Hollis
- 4 RFD: Commerce and Small Business
- 5 First Read: 06-Feb-24
- 6 PFD: 01-Dec-23



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#### SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law pertaining to licensing real estate companies, brokers, and salespersons, there is no provision limiting the number of co-brokerage agreements a licensed out-of-state broker may enter into with state licensed brokers.

Under existing law, there is no limit on the duration of a residential listing agreement.

Under existing law, there are no specific disclosures required of licensees dealing in equitable interests in a contract for purchase and sale of residential property.

This bill would provide certain requirements pertaining to training, qualifications, licensure, and license renewal for licensed real estate companies, brokers, salespersons, teams, schools that offer real estate training courses, and applicants for licensure.

This bill would provide certain restrictions on transactions between licensed out-of-state co-brokers and licensees of this state.

This bill would provide that the Alabama Real Estate Commission may impose penalties for a licensee's failure to disclose certain aspects of transactions involving the sale or assignment of an equitable



29 interest in a contract for the purchase and sale of 30 residential real estate. 31 This bill would further provide that the Alabama 32 Real Estate Commission may impose penalties for certain 33 conduct by licensees including, but not limited to, the 34 failure to specify the expiration date of a residential 35 listing agreement or for creating an encumbrance on the 36 property that is the subject of a residential listing 37 agreement by recording the listing agreement with a probate officer. 38 39 This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code 40 41 language to current style. 42 43 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 44 45 AN ACT 46 47 Relating to licensed real estate professionals and 48 companies; to amend Sections 34-27-2, 34-27-3, 34-27-6, 49 34-27-8, 34-27-32, 34-27-33, 34-27-34, 34-27-35, 34-27-36, 50 34-27-81, 34-27-82, 34-27-83, 34-27-84, 34-27-85, and 51 34-27-86, Code of Alabama 1975; to add Section 34-27-39; to 52 provide certain requirements related to training, 53 qualifications and licensure of real estate companies, 54 brokers, and salespersons; to provide restrictions on licensed 55 out-of-state co-broker transactions in the state; to impose

penalties for certain licensee conduct including certain



- 57 conduct related to the sale or assignment of an equitable
- interest in a residential purchase and sale agreement and for
- 59 the failure to provide a specified expiration date of a
- 60 residential listing agreement; and to make nonsubstantive,
- 61 technical revisions to update the existing code language to
- 62 current style.
- 63 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
- 64 Section 1. Sections 34-27-2, and 34-27-3, Code of
- Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:
- 66 "\$34-27-2
- (a) For purposes of Articles 1 and 2 of this chapter,
- the following terms shall have the respective following
- 69 meanings ascribed by this section:
- 70 (1) APARTMENT. A building or complex with more than
- 71 four individual units built primarily for residential leasing
- 72 purposes.
- 73  $\frac{(1)}{(2)}$  ASSOCIATE BROKER. Any broker other than a
- 74 qualifying broker.
- 75  $(\frac{2}{2})$  (3) BROKER. Any person licensed as a real estate
- 76 broker under Articles 1 and 2 of this chapter.
- 77  $\frac{(3)}{(4)}$  COMMISSION. The Alabama Real Estate Commission,
- 78 except where the context requires that it means the fee paid
- 79 to a broker or salesperson.
- 80 (4) (5) COMMISSIONER. A member of the commission.
- 81  $\frac{(5)}{(6)}$  COMPANY. Any sole proprietorship, corporation,
- 82 partnership, branch office, or lawfully constituted business
- 83 organization as the Legislature may provide for from time to
- 84 time, which is licensed as a company under Articles 1 and 2 of



- 85 this chapter.
- 86 (6)(7) ENGAGE. Contractual relationships between a qualifying broker and an associate broker or salesperson licensed under him or her whether the relationship is
- 89 employer-employee, independent contractor, or otherwise.
- 90 (8) EQUITABLE INTEREST IN A CONTRACT or EQUITABLE
  91 INTEREST. Any interests or rights in a contract or agreement
  92 to purchase residential real estate held by a party to the
- 93 <u>contract or agreement.</u>

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- (7) (9) INACTIVE LICENSE. A license which is being held by the commission office by law, order of the commission, at the request of the licensee, or which is renewable but is not currently valid because of failure to renew.
- 98  $\frac{(8)}{(10)}$  LICENSEE. Any broker, salesperson, or company.
- 99 (9) (11) LICENSE PERIOD. That period of time beginning
  100 on October 1 of a year designated by the commission to be the
  101 first year of a license period and ending on midnight
  102 September 30 of the year designated by the commission as the
- 104 (12) LISTING AGREEMENT. An agreement between a company
- and an owner by which the company agrees to assist the owner
- in the sale of the owner's real property in exchange for a
- 107 fee. The definition includes agreements giving the company the
- 108 right to list or market the owner's real property upon the
- owner's future decision to sell the property.
- 110 (13) OWNER. A person or entity legally deeded real
- 111 property.
- 112  $\frac{(10)}{(14)}$  PERSON. A natural person.

final year of that license period.



 $\left(\frac{11}{1}\right)$  (15) PLACE OF BUSINESS.

- a. A licensed broker living in a rural area of this state who operates from his or her home, provided that he or she sets up and maintains an office for the conduct of the real estate business, which shall not be used for living purposes or occupancy other than the conduct of the real estate business. The office shall be used by the broker only and not as a place of business from which any additional licensee operates under his or her license. The office shall have a separate business telephone, separate entrance, and be properly identified as a real estate office.
- b. All licensees located within the city limits or police jurisdiction of a municipality shall operate from a separate office located in the city limits or police jurisdiction. The office shall have a business telephone, meet all other regulations of the Real Estate Commission, and be properly identified as a real estate office. Hardship cases may be subject to waiver of this regulation upon application and approval by the commission.
- c. All business records and files shall be kept at the place of business as required by law or Real Estate Commission rules.
- 135 (16) PRINCIPAL BROKER. As used in other states, having
  136 the same meaning as "qualifying broker" in this state.
  - (12) (17) QUALIFYING BROKER. A broker under whom a sole proprietorship, corporation, partnership, branch office, or lawfully constituted business organization as the Legislature may from time to time provide is licensed, or a broker



- licensed as a company to do business as a sole proprietorship
- 142 who is responsible for supervising the acts of the company or
- 143 proprietorship and all real estate licensees licensed
- 144 therewith.
- 145 (18) RECOVERY FUND. The Alabama Real Estate
- 146 Recovery Fund.
- 147 (19) RESIDENTIAL. Pertaining to real property located
- in the state which is used primarily for personal, family, or
- 149 household purposes.
- 150 (14)(20) SALESPERSON. Any person licensed as a real
- estate salesperson under Articles 1 and 2 of this chapter.
- 152 (21) TEAM. Licensees within the same company who group
- 153 together to share consumers, resources, knowledge, or
- 154 commissions.
- 155 (b) The licensing requirements of Articles 1 and 2 of
- this chapter shall not apply to any of the following persons
- 157 and transactions:
- 158 (1) Any owner in the managing of, or in consummating a
- 159 real estate transaction involving, his or her own real estate
- or the real estate of his or her spouse or child or parent.
- 161 (2) An attorney-at-law performing his or her duties as
- 162 an attorney-at-law.
- 163 (3) Persons acting without compensation and in good
- faith under a duly executed power of attorney authorizing the
- 165 consummation of a real estate transaction.
- 166 (4) Persons or a state or federally chartered financial
- 167 institution acting as a receiver, trustee, administrator,
- 168 executor, or guardian; or acting under a court order or under



- 169 authority of a trust instrument or will.
- 170 (5) Public officers performing their official duties.
- 171 (6) Persons performing general clerical or
- 172 administrative duties for a broker so long as the person does
- 173 not physically show listed property.
- 174 (7) Persons acting as the manager for an apartment
- building or complex. However, this exception shall not apply
- to a person acting as an on-site manager of a condominium
- 177 building or complex.
- 178 (8) Persons licensed as time-share sellers under
- 179 Article 3 of this chapter performing an act consistent with
- 180 that article.
- 181 (9) Transactions involving the sale, lease, or transfer
- 182 of cemetery lots."
- 183 "\$34-27-3
- 184 (a) A licensed principal broker of another state may
- 185 act as co-broker, whether in sales or lease transactions, with
- 186 a licensed qualifying broker of this state by executing a
- written agreement specifying each parcel of property covered
- 188 by the agreement if the state in which the nonresident broker
- 189 is licensed offers the same privileges to licensees of this
- 190 state. Co-brokerage agreements are limited to three
- 191 transactions per calendar year, per licensed out-of-state
- 192 principal broker. Transactions may include multiple properties
- 193 if the properties are part of the same portfolio. No licensed
- 194 out-of-state principal broker shall use co-brokerage
- 195 agreements to engage in transactions totaling more than fifty
- million dollars (\$50,000,000) in any one calendar year.



197	(b) Whenever an Alabama <u>qualifying</u> broker enters into a
198	co-brokerage agreement with a <pre>nonresident</pre> licensed out-of-state
199	<pre>principal broker to perform in Alabama any of the acts</pre>
200	described in Section 34-27-30, the Alabama <u>qualifying</u> broker
201	shall file within 10 days with the commission a copy of each
202	such written agreement not more than 10 days after the
203	agreement is signed by all parties. By signing the agreement,
204	the nonresident licensed out-of-state principal broker agrees
205	to abide by Alabama law, and the rules and regulations of the
206	commission; and further agrees that civil actions may be
207	commenced against him or her in any court of competent
208	jurisdiction in any county of this state in which a claim may
209	arise.

- 210 (c) All co-brokerage agreements with licensed

  211 out-of-state co-brokers shall include all of the following

  212 provisions:
- 213 (1) The Alabama broker shall require a listing or joint listing of the property involved.
- 215 (2) The agreement shall specify all material terms, 216 including, but not limited to, the financial terms.
- 217 (3) The showing of property located in Alabama and any
  218 negotiations pertaining to it shall be supervised by the
  219 Alabama broker.
- 220 (4) The name of the Alabama broker shall appear in all advertising of real property located in the state.
- 222 (5) The Alabama broker shall be liable for all acts of 223 the licensed out-of-state broker, as well as his or her own 224 acts, arising from the execution of the co-brokerage



225	agreement.
226	(6) The Alabama broker shall verify that the licensed
227	out-of-state broker is a licensed principal broker in another
228	state.
229	(7) Any earnest money deposited pursuant to the
230	agreement must be held in escrow by the Alabama broker unless
231	both the buyer and the seller agree in writing to relieve the
232	Alabama broker of this responsibility."
233	Section 2. Section 34-27-6, Code of Alabama 1975, is
234	amended to read as follows:
235	<b>"</b> §34-27-6
236	(a) For purposes of this section and rules adopted
237	pursuant thereto, the following terms shall have the following
238	meanings:
239	(1) ACCREDITED SCHOOL. Any nonprofit college or
240	university meeting the standards of an accrediting agency
241	recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and offering
242	any commission-approved course.
243	$\frac{(1)}{(2)}$ ADMINISTRATOR. A person designated by a
244	<pre>principal school or branch school licensed by the commission</pre>
245	and approved by the commission to be the person responsible to
246	the commission for all acts governed by this chapter and
247	applicable rules which govern the operation of schools.
248	(2)(3) APPROVED COURSE. Any course of instruction
249	approved by the commission that satisfies commission
250	requirements for prelicense education, postlicense education,

(3) APPROVED SCHOOL. Any proprietary educational

251 or continuing education.



253	institution offering only commission approved continuing
254	education courses and any accredited college or university
255	that offers any commission approved course.

- (4) BRANCH SCHOOL. Any school under the ownership of a principal school which offers commission approved courses at a permanent location.
- (5) CE-ONLY SCHOOL. Any private educational institution or organization offering only commission-approved continuing education courses.
  - (6) CONTINUING EDUCATION. Any professional course required to renew or activate a license which shall be a minimum of one hour upon approval of the commission.
  - (7) DISTANCE EDUCATION. Programs whereby instruction does not take place in a traditional classroom setting but rather where teacher and student are apart by distance or by time and instruction takes place through other media.
  - (5)(8) INSTRUCTIONAL SITE. Any physical place where commission—approved instruction is conducted apart from the principal school or branch school.
  - (6) (9) INSTRUCTOR. A person approved licensed by the commission to teach approved courses in the classroom or by distance education.
- 275 (7) (10) LICENSED PRELICENSE SCHOOL. Any proprietary
  276 school that is licensed by the commission and bonded,
  277 including any for-profit college, that offers commission—
  278 approved prelicense courses—or postlicense courses, or both,
  279 only after being licensed and bonded by the commission.
- 280 Prelicense schools may also offer continuing education



courses.

(8) (11) PRINCIPAL SCHOOL. Any institution or organization which is the primary school and not a branch school that is approved and is licensed by the commission.

- (9) PROPRIETARY SCHOOL. Any school that is not an accredited college or university and which offers commission approved prelicense courses or postlicense courses, or both, only after being licensed and bonded by the commission. Each branch school shall be licensed separately.
- that offer commission approved prelicense, postlicense, and continuing education courses. The commission shall be the board, commission, or agency with have the sole and exclusive authority to license proprietary and regulate schools and their branches for the limited purpose of their offerings of commission approved prelicense courses or postlicense courses, or both that offer commission-approved prelicense and continuing education courses.
- prelicense principal schools to furnishobtain a surety bond issued by a surety company authorized to do business in Alabama, payable to the commission in the amount of an amount not to exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) with a surety company authorized to do business in Alabama, which bond shall provide. The bond shall provide that the bond obligor therein shall pay up to an amount not to exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) in the aggregate sum of all judgments which shall be recovered against the school for damages arising from the



309	school's collection of tuition or fees, or both, from
310	students, but failing to provide the complete instruction for
311	which such the tuition or fees were collected.

- (2) The bond shall be obtained by the school and shall also cover any branch schools named in the bond or any endorsement or amendment of or to the bond.
- (3) The bond shall remain in effect as long as the school is licensed. In the event the bond is revoked or cancelledcanceled by the surety company, the school shall have 10 days after cancellation or revocation to obtain a new bond and file—it\_the bond with the commission. Failure to maintain a bond shall result in the immediate suspension of the licenses of the school and all of its branches.
- The bond shall be provided by the school and shall also cover any branch schools named in the bond or any endorsement or amendment thereto.
- each licensed prelicense principal school and shall charge a fee for each branch school in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per year for each year or portion of a year remaining in the respective license period. The renewal fee for each school license prelicense principal and branch school shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) for each year of the license period.
- (2) The commission shall charge a license fee for each

  CE-only school in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) per

  year for each year or remaining portion of a year in any

  license period. The renewal fee for each CE-only school shall



337 be fifty dollars (\$50) for each year of any license period.

- (e) (1) The commission shall require all schools to name and have approved licensed by the commission an school administrator who shall be responsible to the commission for all actions of his or her respective school.
- (2) Each administrator shall pay a license fee in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) per year for each year or remaining portion of a year of any license period. The renewal fee for each administrator shall be fifty dollars (\$50) for each year of the license period.
- (f) PrincipalEach schools and branch school shall be clearly identified by signage which shall indicate the name of the school as in a manner appropriate for theits location. The signage shall set out the name of the principal school. Branch schools shall be clearly identified by signage as appropriate for the location. The signage For branch schools the signage shall set out the name of the branch school and the name of the principal school.
- reprimand, fine, suspend for a period up to two years, or revoke the license or approval of any school, administrator, or instructor for any violation of this section or any rule of the commission. The fine shall be not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor moregreater than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per countviolation.
- (h) The commission shall approve, sponsor, contract for or conduct, or assist in sponsoring or conducting, real estate



365 courses for licensees, may charge fees, and may incur and pay
366 the necessary related expenses in connection therewith.

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- (i) (1) The commission shall approvelicense and regulate instructors who teach the commission—approved prelicense, postlicense, and continuing education courses. The commission shall establish and collect fees as determined necessary, from licensed instructors who teach commission—approved courses, in an amount not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50) per instructor annually, to approved instructors who teach commission approved courses.
- (2) The commission shall establish a continuing education requirement for all active prelicense instructors.
- (j) (1) An instructor, administrator, or school may request that the commission issue or change its license to inactive status. An instructor, administrator, or school licensee whose license status is inactive shall be prohibited from engaging in any of the following:
- 382 <u>a. Teaching commission-approved courses if the licensee</u> 383 is an instructor.
- b. Offering commission-approved courses if the licensee is a school.
- 386 <u>c. Performing any duties of an administrator if the</u>
  387 <u>licensee is an administrator, including, but not limited to,</u>
  388 <u>registering students, advertising the school, reporting course</u>
  389 <u>schedules to the commission, or entering student credit for</u>
  390 completed courses.
- 391 (2) The inactive license of an instructor,
  392 administrator, or school must be renewed in the same manner as



an	active license for an instructor, administrator, or school.
	(3) A prelicense instructor whose license status is
in	active for three years or less and who renews his or her
li	cense while its status is inactive may activate his or her
<u>li</u>	cense for the first time during any license period by
me	eting both of the following requirements:
	a. Completing any continuing education requirement for
<u>li</u>	censed instructors that remains incomplete from the previous
<u>li</u>	cense period.
	b. Paying a license activation fee.
	c. If the license remains inactive for longer than
th	ree years, the prelicense instructor must take required
tr	aining before activating his or her license. Once the
li	cense is activated, a prelicense instructor will be
re	sponsible for completing the then current continuing
<u>ed</u>	ucation coursework requirement to renew the active license
ĒΟ	r the next license period.
	(4) In addition to any other requirements provided in
th	is section, any instructor, administrator, or a school which
is	seeking to change its license status from inactive to
ac	tive shall be required to pay a license activation fee in
th	e amount of fifty dollars (\$50) per license.
	(k) An active prelicense instructor with an inactive
br	oker license must remain current with continuing education
re	quirements for active brokers as well as the continuing
<u>∍d</u>	ucation requirements for active prelicense instructors.
	(1) (1) All education licenses and approvals shall
ex	pire at midnight on September 30 of the final year of each



<u>li</u>	cense period. Each prelicense instructor must complete
re	quired continuing education courses and provide proof of
CO	mpletion to the commission on or before September 30 of the
<u>fi</u>	nal year of each license period.
	(2) The continuing education coursework requirement
sh	all apply to each two-year education renewal. Coursework
ho	urs completed in excess of the requirement shall not be
ap	plicable to any subsequent renewal.
	(3) An inactive status license of a prelicense
<u>in</u>	structor shall be renewed in the same manner as for an
ac	tive prelicense instructor except that continuing education
CO.	ursework shall not be required while the license remains
in	active.
	(m) Any prelicense instructor, administrator, or school
th	at fails to renew its license by the September 30 deadline
sh	all incur a late fee in the amount of two hundred dollars
(\$	200) per license as of October 1 of the first year of the
ne	w license period.
	(n)(1) A prelicense instructor, administrator, or
SC	hool may renew an expired license during the twelve-month
pe.	riod following the September 30 renewal deadline, provided
th	at the licensee shall not engage in any licensed activity
<u>un</u>	til the license is renewed.
	(2) After the last day of the twelfth month following
th	e September 30 renewal deadline, an expired license shall
<u>la</u>	pse and shall be subject to all requirements applicable to
an	original license.

(3) The commission may allow late renewal of a lapsed



449	license upon a determination of hardship, provided that all
450	required fees are paid.
451	$\frac{(j)}{(o)}$ (0) (1) The commission shall approve courses and
452	establish and collect fees as determined deemed necessary, not
453	to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) per application, to
454	review each course.
455	(2) a. The commission may certify synchronous distance
456	education courses, and establish and collect fees deemed
457	necessary, in an amount not to exceed four hundred dollars
458	(\$400) per application.
459	b. The commission shall consider synchronous distance
460	education courses for certification based on the commission's
461	analysis of all of the following aspects of the course of
462	which it is part:
463	1. The course or program mission statement.
464	2. Course design.
465	3. Interactivity.
466	4. Delivery.
467	5. Equipment.
468	6. The learning environment.
469	7. Student support services.
470	8. Educational effectiveness and assessment of student
471	<pre>learning outcomes.</pre>
472	9. Commitment to ongoing support of the course.
473	(k) (p) The commission shall establish one-year or
474	multi-year approval license periods for schools, instructors,
475	administrators, and courses. Approval and license License
476	periods shall run from October 1 of the first year of the



4 / /	approvaticense period unrough september 30 or the rinar year
478	of the approval license period.
479	(1)(q) The commission shall promulgate adopt rules and
480	regulations as necessary to accomplish the purpose of this
481	section in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act."
482	Section 3. Section 34-27-8, Code of Alabama 1975, is
483	amended to read as follows:
484	<b>"</b> §34-27-8
485	(a) A majority of the commission members shall
486	constitute a quorum for the conduct of commission business.
487	The commission may adopt and enforce all rules and regulations
488	pursuant to the state administrative procedure statutes
489	necessary for the administration of this chapter, and to
490	otherwise do all things necessary and convenient for effecting
491	this chapter.
492	(b) In addition to the powers granted in this section,
493	the commission may adopt and enforce rules and regulations
494	governing the requirements of agency disclosure by licensed
495	brokers and salespersons.
496	(c) Each offer to purchase prepared after August 1,
497	1998, shall have prominently displayed the following AGENCY
498	DISCLOSURE clause which shall be completed and initialed as
499	<del>indicated:</del>
500	The listing company is:
501	(Two blocks may be checked)
502	An agent of the seller.
503	An agent of the buyer.
504	An agent of both the soller and buyer and is

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505	acting as a limited consensual dual agent.
506	Assisting the buyer seller as a
507	transaction broker.
508	The selling company is:
509	(Two blocks may be checked)
510	An agent of the seller.
511	An agent of the buyer.
512	An agent of both the seller and buyer and is
513	acting as a limited consensual dual agent.
514	Assisting the buyer seller as a
515	transaction broker."
516	Section 4. Section 34-27-32, Code of Alabama 1975, is
517	amended to read as follows:
518	<b>"</b> §34-27-32
519	(a) A license for a broker or a salesperson shall be
520	registered to a specific real estate office and shall be
521	issued only to, and held only by, a person who meets all of
522	the following requirements:
523	(1) Is trustworthy and competent to transact the
524	business of a broker or salesperson in a manner that
525	safeguards the interest of the public.
526	(2) Is a person whose application for real estate
527	licensure has not been rejected in any state on any grounds
528	other than failure to pass a written examination within the
529	two years prior to the application for real estate licensure
530	with Alabama. If the applicant's rejection for real estate
531	licensure in any state is more than two years from the date of
532	application for licensure with Alabama, then the applicant may



not be issued an Alabama real estate license without the approval of the commissioners.

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- (3) Is a person whose real estate license has not been revoked in any state within the two years prior to application for real estate licensure with Alabama. If the applicant's real estate licensure revocation in any state, including Alabama, is more than two years from the date of application for licensure with Alabama then the applicant may not be issued an Alabama real estate license without the approval of the commissioners.
  - (4) Is at least 19 years old of age.
- (5) Is a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government, or is an alien with permanent resident status.
  - (6) Is a person who, if a nonresident, agrees to sign an affidavit stating the following and in the following form:
- 551 "I, as a nonresident applicant for a real estate 552 license and as a licensee, agree that the Alabama Real Estate 553 Commission shall have jurisdiction over me in any and all of 554 my real estate related activities the same as if I were an 555 Alabama resident licensee. I agree to be subject to 556 investigations and disciplinary actions the same as Alabama resident licensees. Further, I agree that civil actions may be 557 558 commenced against me in any court of competent jurisdiction in any county of the State of Alabama. 559
  - "I hereby appoint the Executive Director or the

Assistant Executive Director of the Alabama Real Estate

Commission as my agent upon whom all disciplinary, judicial,
or other process or legal notices may be served. I agree that
any service upon my agent shall be the same as service upon me
and that certified copies of this appointment shall be deemed
sufficient evidence and shall be admitted into evidence with
the same force and effect as the original might be admitted. I
agree that any lawful process against me which is served upon
my agent shall be of the same legal force and validity as if
personally served upon me and that this appointment shall
continue in effect for as long as I have any liability
remaining in the State of Alabama. I understand that my agent
shall, within a reasonable time after service upon him or her,
mail a copy of the service by certified mail, return receipt
requested, to me at my last known business address.

"I agree that I am bound by all the provisions of the Alabama Real Estate License Law the same as if I were a resident of the State of Alabama.

579 Legal Signature of Applicant"

The commission may reject the application of any person who has been convicted of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude.

(b) (1) a. A person who holds a current real estate salesperson license in another state, including persons who move to and become residents of Alabama, shall apply for a reciprocal salesperson license on a form prescribed by the commission. A person who holds a current broker license in another state, including persons who move to and become



residents of Alabama, shall apply for a reciprocal broker license on a form prescribed by the commission.

- 591 b. The applicant shall submit proof that he or she has 592 a current real estate license in another state as evidenced by 593 a certificate of licensure, together with any other 594 information required by the commission. The applicant shall also show proof that he or she has completed at least six 595 596 hours of course work in Alabama real estate which is approved 597 by the commission. Applicants for a reciprocal license shall not be subject to the complete examination or temporary 598 599 license requirements of Section 34-27-33, but shall pass a 600 reasonable written examination prepared by the commission on 601 the subject of Alabama real estate. A person who holds a 602 reciprocal license shall show proof of completion of 603 continuing education either by meeting the requirements of Section 34-27-35 or by showing proof that his or her other 604 605 state license remains active in that state.
- 606 <u>c.</u> The fees for issuance and renewal of a reciprocal
  607 license shall be the same as those for original licenses
  608 pursuant to Section 34-27-35. The recovery fund fee for
  609 issuance of a reciprocal license shall be the same as for an
  610 original license pursuant to Section 34-27-31.
- (2) A person who holds a current Alabama license who
  moves to and becomes a resident of the state shall within 10
  days submit to the commission notice of change of address and
  all other license status changes.
- 615 (c) A person who does not hold a current real estate 616 broker license in another state desiring to be a real estate



broker in this state shall apply for a broker's broker license on a form prescribed by the commission which shall specify the real estate office to which he or she is registered. Along with the application, he or she shall submit all of the following:

- (1) Proof that he or she has had an active real estate salesperson's salesperson license in any state for at least 24 months of the 36-month period immediately preceding the date of application.
- 626 (2) Proof that he or she is a high school graduate or 627 the equivalent.

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- 628 (3) Proof that he or she has completed a course in real 629 estate approved by the commission, which shall be a minimum of 630 60 clock hours.
  - (4) Any other information requested by the commission.
  - (d) A person who does not hold a current real estate salesperson license in another state desiring to be a real estate salesperson in this state shall apply for a salesperson's salesperson license with the commission on a form prescribed by the commission which shall specify the real estate office to which he or she is registered. Along with the application he or she shall furnish all of the following:
- (1) Proof that he or she is a high school graduate or the equivalent.
- (2) Proof that he or she has successfully completed a course in real estate approved by the commission, which shall be a minimum of 60 clock hours.
- 644 (3) Any other information required by the commission.



645 (e) An application for a company license or branch 646 office license shall be made by a qualifying broker on a form 647 prescribed by the commission. The qualifying broker shall be 648 an officer, partner, or employee of the company.

- (f) An applicant for a company or broker license shall maintain a place of business.
- maintains more than one place of business in the state, he or she shall have a company or branch office license for each separate location or branch office. Every application shall state the location of the company or branch office and the name of its qualifying broker. Each company or branch office shall be under the direction and supervision of a qualifying broker licensed at that address. No person may serve as qualifying broker at more than one location. The qualifying broker for the branch office and the qualifying broker for the company shall share equal responsibility for the real estate activities of all licensees assigned to the branch office or company.
  - (h) (1) No person shall be a qualifying broker for more than one company or for a company and on his or her own behalf unless he or she meets all of the following requirements:
- 667 (1)a. All companies for which he or she is and proposes to be the qualifying broker consent in writing.
- $\frac{(2)}{b}$  He or she files a copy of the written consent 670 with the commission.
- 671 <u>c. All companies for which he or she is and proposes to</u>
  672 be the qualifying broker share the same company address (3) He



or she will be doing business from the same location.

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- 674 (2) A person licensed under a qualifying broker may be 675 engaged by one or more companies with the same qualifying 676 broker.
  - (3) A person may utilize any office of a company under which he or she is licensed.
- 679 (i) A company license shall become invalid on the death 680 or disability of a qualifying broker. Within 30 days after the 681 death or disability, the corporation, or the remaining partners or the successor partnership, if any, may designate 682 683 another of its officers, members, or salespersons to apply for a license as temporary qualifying broker. The person 684 685 designated as temporary qualifying broker shall either be a 686 broker or have been a salesperson for at least one year prior 687 to filing the application. If the application is granted, the company may operate under that temporary qualifying broker for 688 no more than six months after the death or disability of its 689 690 former qualifying broker temporary qualifying broker license is 691 issued. Unless the company designates a fully licensed broker 692 as the qualifying broker within the six months, the company 693 license and all licenses under the company shall be classified 694 inactive by the commission.
  - (j) The commission shall require both state and national criminal history background checks to issue a license. Applicants shall submit required information and fingerprints to the commission, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, or its successor, or to a fingerprint processing service that may be



- 701 selected by the commission for this purpose. Criminal history
- 702 record information shall be provided to the commission from
- 703 both the State of Alabama and the Federal Bureau of
- 704 Investigation. The commission can use the provided criminal
- 705 history for the determination of the qualifications and
- 706 fitness of the applicant to hold a real estate license. The
- 707 applicant shall assume the cost of the criminal history check.
- 708 The criminal history must shall be current to the issuance of
- 709 the license.
- 710 (k) The commission may charge a fee of ten dollars
- 711 (\$10) for furnishing any person a copy of a license,
- 712 certificate, or other official record of the commissioner."
- 713 Section 5. Section 34-27-32, Code of Alabama 1975, is
- 714 amended to read as follows:
- 715 "\$34-27-32
- 716 (a) A license for a broker or a salesperson shall be
- 717 registered to a specific real estate office and shall be
- 718 issued only to, and held only by, a person who meets all of
- 719 the following requirements:
- 720 (1) Is trustworthy and competent to transact the
- 721 business of a broker or salesperson in a manner that
- 722 safeguards the interest of the public.
- 723 (2) Is a person whose application for real estate
- 724 licensure has not been rejected in any state on any grounds
- 725 other than failure to pass a written examination within the
- 726 two years prior to the application for real estate licensure
- 727 with Alabama. If the applicant's rejection for real estate
- 728 licensure in any state is more than two years from the date of



- application for licensure with Alabama, then the applicant may not be issued an Alabama real estate license without the approval of the commissioners.
  - (3) Is a person whose real estate license has not been revoked in any state within the two years prior to application for real estate licensure with Alabama. If the applicant's real estate licensure revocation in any state, including Alabama, is more than two years from the date of application for licensure with Alabama then the applicant may not be issued an Alabama real estate license without the approval of the commissioners.
  - (4) Is at least 19 years <del>old</del>of age.

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- 741 (5) Is a citizen of the United States or, if not a 742 citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present 743 in the United States with appropriate documentation from the 744 federal government, or is an alien with permanent resident 745 status.
- 746 (6) Is a person who, if a nonresident, agrees to sign 747 an affidavit stating the following and in the following form:

748 "I, as a nonresident applicant for a real estate 749 license and as a licensee, agree that the Alabama Real Estate 750 Commission shall have jurisdiction over me in any and all of 751 my real estate related activities the same as if I were an Alabama resident licensee. I agree to be subject to 752 753 investigations and disciplinary actions the same as Alabama 754 resident licensees. Further, I agree that civil actions may be commenced against me in any court of competent jurisdiction in 755 756 any county of the State of Alabama.

# THE SERVICE

#### **HB13 INTRODUCED**

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"I hereby appoint the Executive Director or the Assistant Executive Director of the Alabama Real Estate Commission as my agent upon whom all disciplinary, judicial, or other process or legal notices may be served. I agree that any service upon my agent shall be the same as service upon me and that certified copies of this appointment shall be deemed sufficient evidence and shall be admitted into evidence with the same force and effect as the original might be admitted. I agree that any lawful process against me which is served upon my agent shall be of the same legal force and validity as if personally served upon me and that this appointment shall continue in effect for as long as I have any liability remaining in the State of Alabama. I understand that my agent shall, within a reasonable time after service upon him or her, mail a copy of the service by certified mail, return receipt requested, to me at my last known business address.

"I agree that I am bound by all the provisions of the Alabama Real Estate License Law the same as if I were a resident of the State of Alabama.

776 \_\_\_\_\_Legal Signature of Applicant"

The commission may reject the application of any person who has been convicted of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude.

(b) (1) a. A person who holds a current real estate salesperson license in another state, including persons who move to and become residents of Alabama, shall apply for a reciprocal salesperson license on a form prescribed by the commission. A person who holds a current broker license in



another state, including persons who move to and become residents of Alabama, shall apply for a reciprocal broker license on a form prescribed by the commission.

- b. The applicant shall submit proof that he or she has a current real estate license in another state as evidenced by a certificate of licensure, together with any other information required by the commission. The applicant shall also show proof that he or she has completed at least six hours of course work in Alabama real estate which is approved by the commission. Applicants for a reciprocal license shall not be subject to the complete examination or temporary license requirements of Section 34-27-33, but shall pass a reasonable written examination prepared by the commission on the subject of Alabama real estate. A person who holds a reciprocal license shall show proof of completion of continuing education either by meeting the requirements of Section 34-27-35 or by showing proof that his or her other state license remains active in that state.
- c. The fees for issuance and renewal of a reciprocal license shall be the same as those for original licenses pursuant to Section 34-27-35. The recovery fund fee for issuance of a reciprocal license shall be the same as for an original license pursuant to Section 34-27-31.
- (2) A person who holds a current Alabama license who moves to and becomes a resident of the state shall within 10 days submit to the commission notice of change of address and all other license status changes.
  - (c) A person who does not hold a current real estate



broker license in another state desiring to be a real estate
broker in this state shall apply for a broker'sbroker license
on a form prescribed by the commission which shall specify the
real estate office to which he or she is registered. Along
with the application, he or she shall submit all of the
following:

(1) Proof that he or she has had an active real estate salesperson's salesperson license in any state for at least 24 months of the 36-month period immediately preceding the date of application.

- (2) Proof that he or she is a high school graduate or the equivalent.
- (3) Proof that he or she has completed a course in real estate approved by the commission, which shall be a minimum of 60 clock hours.met all of the following requirements:
- a. Successfully completed a course in broker basics approved by the commission.
- b. Passed a license examination within 90 days after completion of the broker basics course.
  - c. Within 90 days after passing the license examination, successfully completed a course in professional development approved by the commission.
    - (4) Any other information requested by the commission.
  - (d) A person who does not hold a current real estate salesperson license in another state desiring to be a real estate salesperson in this state shall apply for a salesperson's salesperson license with the commission on a form prescribed by the commission which shall specify the real



841	estate office to which he or she is registered. Along with the
842	application he or she shall <pre>furnishprovide</pre> all of the
843	following:

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- (1) Proof that he or she is a high school graduate or the equivalent.
- 846 (2) Proof that he or she has successfully completed a
  847 course in real estate approved by the commission, which shall
  848 be a minimum of 60 clock hours.met all of the following
  849 requirements:
- a. Successfully completed a salesperson basics course approved by the commission.
- 852 <u>b. Passed a license examination within 90 days after</u>
   853 completing the salesperson basics course.
- 854 <u>c. Within 90 days after passing the license</u>
  855 <u>examination, successfully completed a course approved by the</u>
  856 commission in salesperson professional development.
- 857 (3) The name of the applicant's qualifying broker,
  858 along with the information required pursuant to Section
  859 34-27-33.
- 860  $\frac{(3)}{(4)}$  Any other information required by the commission.
- 862 (e) An application for a company license or branch
  863 office license shall be made by a qualifying broker on a form
  864 prescribed by the commission. The qualifying broker shall be
  865 an officer, partner, or employee of the company.
- 866 (f) An applicant for a company or broker license shall 867 maintain a place of business.
  - (g) If the applicant for a company or broker license



869 maintains more than one place of business in the state, he or 870 she shall have a company or branch office license for each 871 separate location or branch office. Every application shall 872 state the location of the company or branch office and the 873 name of its qualifying broker. Each company or branch office 874 shall be under the direction and supervision of a qualifying 875 broker licensed at that address. No person may serve as 876 qualifying broker at more than one location. The qualifying 877 broker for the branch office and the qualifying broker for the company shall share equal responsibility for the real estate 878 879 activities of all licensees assigned to the branch office or 880 company.

- (h) (1) No person shall be a qualifying broker for more than one company or for a company and on his or her own behalf unless he or she meets all of the following requirements:
- 884  $\frac{(1)a}{a}$  All companies for which he or she is and proposes to be the qualifying broker consent in writing.

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- $\frac{(2)}{b}$ . He or she files a copy of the written consent with the commission.
- (3) He or she will be doing business from the same location. All companies for which he or she is and proposes to be the qualifying broker share the same company address.
- 891 (2) A person licensed under a qualifying broker may be engaged by one or more companies with the same qualifying broker.
- 894 (3) A person may utilize any office of a company under 895 which he or she is licensed.
  - (i) A company license shall become invalid on the death

or disability of a qualifying broker. Within 30 days after the death or disability, the corporation, or the remaining partners or the successor partnership, if any, may designate another of its officers, members, or salespersons to apply for a license as temporary qualifying broker. The person designated as temporary qualifying broker shall either be a broker or have been a salesperson for at least one year prior to filing the application. If the application is granted, the company may operate under that temporary qualifying broker for no more than six months after the death or disability of its former qualifying brokertemporary qualifying broker license is issued. Unless the company designates a fully licensed broker as the qualifying broker within the six months, the company license and all licenses under the company shall be classified inactive by the commission.

national criminal history background checks to issue a license. Applicants shall submit required information and fingerprints to the commission, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, or its successor, or to a fingerprint processing service that may be selected by the commission for this purpose. Criminal history record information shall be provided to the commission from both the State of Alabama and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The commission can use the provided criminal history for the determination of the qualifications and fitness of the applicant to hold a real estate license. The applicant shall assume the cost of the criminal history check.

- 925 The criminal history <u>mustshall</u> be current to the issuance of 926 the license.
- 927 (k) The commission may charge a fee of ten dollars

  928 (\$10) for furnishing any person a copy of a license,

  929 certificate, or other official record of the commissioner."
- 930 Section 6. Section 34-27-33, Code of Alabama 1975, is 931 amended to read as follows:
- 932 "\$34-27-33

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- 933 (a) (1) In addition to other requirements of this
  934 chapterPursuant to Section 34-27-32, every applicant for a
  935 broker'sbroker or salesperson'ssalesperson license shall
  936 submit to a reasonable written examination. The commission
  937 shall conduct examinations at places and times it prescribes.
  938 The commission may contract with an independent testing agency
  939 to prepare, grade, or conduct the examination.
  - (2) Effective October 1, 2001, and thereafter, the The fee for each examination and the provisions for payment and forfeiture shall be as specified in the contract with the independent testing agency.
  - (b) (1) Within 90 days after passing the examination, the applicant shall complete a professional development course approved by the commission, meet all of the requirements of this chapter, and secure a qualifying broker. and meet all requirements of this chapter and the board shall Upon the applicant doing so, the commission shall issue a temporary an active license or classify the license as inactive.
  - (2) In order to obtain an active license, the applicant's qualifying broker shall acknowledge sign and



submit to the commission a sworn statement that the applicant is in his or her opinion honest, trustworthy, and of good reputation, and that the broker accepts responsibility for the actions of the salesperson as set out in Section 34-27-31. The applicant's qualifying broker shall be licensed inhold an active Alabama license.

- (c) (1) On passing the examination and complying with all other conditions for licensure, a temporary license certificate—shall be issued to the applicant. The applicant is not licensed until he or she or his or her qualifying broker actually receives the temporary license—certificate. A temporary license—shall be valid only for a period of one year following the first day of the month after its issuance.
- (2) <u>a.</u> The holder of a temporary license shall not be issued an original license until he or she has satisfactorily completed a 30-hour post-license course prescribed by the commission submits to the commission both of the following:
- 1. Proof of successful completion of a 15-hour orientation as prescribed by the commission, in the applicant's real estate practice area.
- 2. A complete core competencies checklist on a form prescribed by the commission and signed by the applicant's qualifying broker.
- b. If the The holder of a temporary license must complete the course fails to complete and submit the application for an original license with required documentation within six months 90 days of after issuance of his or her temporary license, and have his or her original license

# SALE OF ALABATE

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981	issued, otherwise his or her temporary license certificate
982	shall automatically be placed on inactive status by the
983	commission. During the remaining six months his or her
984	temporary license is valid, the holder of a temporary license
985	may complete the course and have his or her original license
986	issued. If the holder of a temporary license does not complete
987	the course and have his or her original license issued within
988	one year following the first day of the month after its
989	issuance, the temporary license shall automatically expire and
990	lapse. A temporary license is not subject to renewal
991	procedures in this chapter and may not be renewed.
992	(3) An inactive temporary license must be renewed at
993	the proper time if an original license has not been issued. If
994	a temporary license remains inactive for more than three
995	years, the licensee must retake the salesperson professional
996	development course prior to activating the license.
997	(3) (4) In order to have the status of an inactive a
998	temporary license <u>issued</u> changed to active status, the
999	applicant shall pay the Recovery Fund fee specified in this
1000	chapter. The holder of a temporary license shall, upon
1001	satisfactory completion of the course, pay the original
1002	license fee specified in this chapter to have his or her
1003	original license issued. An applicant for an original license
1004	who has paid the Recovery Fund fee specified in this chapter
1005	shall not be required to pay another Recovery Fund fee in
1006	order to have his or her original license issued.

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1009	original license has been issued, shall not be subject to the
1010	continuing education requirements in this chapter for the
1011	first renewal of his or her original license.
1012	(d) This section shall become effective for licenses
1013	issued beginning October 1, 1993."
1014	Section 7. Section 34-27-34, Code of Alabama 1975, is
1015	amended to read as follows:
1016	<b>"</b> §34-27-34
1017	(a)(1) A broker may serve as qualifying broker for a
1018	salesperson or associate broker only if licensed in Alabama,
1019	his or her principal business is that of a real estate broker,
1020	and he or she shall be in a position to actually supervise the
1021	real estate activities of the associate broker or salesperson
1022	on a full-time basis A person concurrently licensed as a broker
1023	in another state who has reciprocally obtained a broker
1024	license in this state may serve as a qualifying broker over a
1025	salesperson or associate broker if he or she meets all of the
1026	<pre>following requirements:</pre>
1027	a. Real estate is his or her principal business.
1028	b. He or she is in a position to actually supervise the
1029	real estate activities of the associate broker or salesperson
1030	on a full-time basis.
1031	c. He or she has held an active broker license for at
1032	<pre>least 24 of the last 36 months.</pre>
1033	(2) A person licensed as a broker in this state who is
1034	<pre>not currently licensed as a broker in another state may serve</pre>
1035	as qualifying broker over a salesperson or associate broker if

1036 <u>he or she meets all of the following requirements:</u>



1037	a.	Real	estate	is	his	or	her	principal	business.	

- b. He or she is in a position to actually supervise the real estate activities of the associate broker or salesperson on a full-time basis.
  - c. He or she has held an active broker license for at least 24 of the last 36 months.
- d. He or she has attended a qualifying broker training course provided by the commission.
  - (2) (3) a. A salesperson or associate broker shall not perform acts for which a license is required unless licensed under a qualifying broker.
  - <u>b.</u> A qualifying broker shall be held responsible to the commission and to the public for all acts governed by this chapter of each salesperson and associate broker licensed under him or her and of each company for which he or she is the qualifying broker. It shall be the duty of the qualifying broker to see that all transactions of every licensee engaged by him or her or any company for which he or she is the qualifying broker comply with this chapter.
    - c. A Additionally, the qualifying broker shall be responsible to an injured party for the damage caused by any violation of this chapter by any licensee engaged by the qualifying broker. This subsection does not relieve a licensee from liability that he or she would otherwise have.
  - (3)d. The qualifying brokers'broker's supervision responsibilities, as prescribed herein, over the real estate activities of associate brokers and salespersons licensed under him or her are not intended to create, and should not be

# SUP OF AL ADAMS

#### HB13 INTRODUCED

construed as creating, an employer-employee relationship contrary to any expressed intent of the qualifying broker and licensee to the contrary.

- (b) (1) Any salesperson or associate broker who desires to change his or her qualifying broker shall give notice in writing to the commission, and shall send a copy of the notice to his or her qualifying broker. The new qualifying broker shall file with the commission a request for the transfer and a statement assuming liability for the licensee. In order to transfer a license, the applicant's new qualifying broker shall acknowledge to the commission that in his or her opinion the applicant is honest, trustworthy, of good reputation, and that the broker accepts responsibility for the actions of the salesperson under Section 34-27-31.
- (2) On payment of a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25), a new license certificate shall be issued to the new qualifying broker on behalf of the salesperson or associate broker for the unexpired term of the original license. A fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) shall also be charged for any of the following license changes:

(1)a. Change of qualifying broker by a company or sole proprietorship. The fee is shall be paid for the each license or licenses on which the current and new qualifying brokers' names appear. In cases where a company has a branch office or offices and the main office qualifying broker is changed, the fee is paid for each branch office license and for the license of each branch qualifying broker. This change must be made within 30 days of the name change.

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- 1093 (2)b. Change of personal name of a qualifying broker.

  1094 Within 30 days following name change, the The fee is shall be

  1095 paid for the license or licenses on which the current

  1096 qualifying broker's name appears.
- 1097 (3)c. Change of personal name of a salesperson or
  1098 associate broker. Within 30 days after the name change, the
  1099 The fee isshall be paid for the license on which the name
  1100 appears.
- 1101 (4)d. Change of business location. The fee is paid for 1102 the license or licenses on which the address appears.
- 1103 (5)e. Change of business name. The fee is paid for the license or licenses on which the name appears.
- 1105 (6) f. Change of <u>license</u> status from inactive to active.

  1106 The fee is paid for each license being changed from inactive

  1107 to active status. No fee is charged for the change from active

  1108 to inactive status.
- 1109 (c) A personqualifying broker who wishes to terminate 1110 his or her status as qualifying brokerresponsibility for a 1111 licensee may do so by notifying the licensee and the 1112 commission in writing and sending the licensee's license 1113 certificate to the commission or verifying in writing to the 1114 commission that the certificate has been lost or destroyed 1115 placing the licensee's license on inactive status with the 1116 commission.
- 1117 (d) A personAn individual who wishes to terminate his
  1118 or her status as a qualifying broker for a company may do so
  1119 by submitting written notice to the company or qualifying
  1120 broker officers of the parent company and the commission.



(e) A salesperson or associate broker shall not perform
any act for which a license is required after his or her
association with his or her qualifying broker has been
terminated, or if he or she changes qualifying brokers, until
a new active license has been issued by the commission."

Section 8. Section 34-27-35, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

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- (a) The commission shall prescribe the form and content of license certificates issued. Each qualifying broker's license certificate shall show the name and business address of the broker. The license certificate of each active salesperson or associate broker shall show his or her name and address. The license certificate of each active salesperson or associate broker shall be delivered or mailed to his or her qualifying broker. Each license certificate shall be kept by the qualifying broker and shall be publicly displayed at the address which appears on the license certificate.
- 1139 (b) The commission may establish a one-year or 1140 multi-year license period.
- 1141 (c)(1) The fee for a temporary license shall be one 1142 hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The original fee for a 1143 broker'sbroker license shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). and, beginning with the license period effective 1144 October 1, 2002, the The renewal fee for a broker's broker 1145 license shall be seventy-five dollars (\$75) per year for each 1146 year of the license period. The original fee for each 1147 1148 salesperson license shall be sixty-five dollars



(\$65) per year for each year or portion of a year remaining in the respective license period, and the renewal fee for each salesperson's salesperson license shall be sixty-five dollars (\$65) per year for each year of the license period. The original fee for each company license shall be sixty-five dollars (\$65) per year for each year or portion of a year remaining in the respective license period, and the renewal fee for each license shall be sixty-five dollars (\$65) per year for each year of the license period.

- (2) Beginning with the license period effective October

  1, 2004, the The renewal fee for a broker's broker license shall
  be ninety-five dollars (\$95) per year for each year of the
  license period. The original fee for each
  salesperson's salesperson license shall be eighty-five dollars
  (\$85) per year for each year or portion of a year remaining in
  the respective license period, and the renewal fee for each
  salesperson's salesperson license shall be eighty-five dollars
  (\$85) per year for each year of the license period. The
  original fee for each company license shall be eighty-five
  dollars (\$85) per year for each year or portion of a year
  remaining in the respective license period, and the renewal
  fee for each license shall be eighty-five dollars (\$85) per
  year for each year of the license period.
- 1172 (d) (1) The renewal research and education fee shall be

  1173 twoseven dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) (\$7.50) per year for

  1174 each year of the license period and shall be paid at the time

  1175 of license renewal by all brokers and salespersons in addition

  1176 to the license renewal fees set out in this section.

- 1177 Collection of this fee shall apply to all broker and
  1178 salesperson renewals, except that brokers who hold more than
  1179 one <u>broker'sbroker</u> license shall pay the fee for only one
  1180 license at each renewal.
- (2) Beginning June 1, 2014, this fee shall be seven

  1182 dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50), and the The proceeds shall be

  1183 distributed to the Alabama Center for Real Estate.
- 1184 (e) The original research and education fee shall be thirty dollars (\$30) and shall be paid at the time of all 1185 applications received on and after October 15, 1995, for 1186 1187 issuance of an original broker's broker license, and shall be paid at the time of all applications received on and after 1188 1189 October 15, 1995, for issuance of a temporary 1190 salesperson license. The original research and 1191 education fee shall also be paid by reciprocal salespersons. This is in addition to the original license fees set out in 1192 this section. This thirty dollar (\$30) original research and 1193 1194 education fee is a one-time fee which no person shall be 1195 required to pay more than once.
- 1196 (f) The license of a salesperson who is subsequently 1197 issued a broker'sbroker license automatically terminates upon 1198 the issuance of his or her broker's broker license certificate. The salesperson license certificate shall be 1199 1200 returned to the commission in order for a broker's broker 1201 license to be issued. No refund shall be made of any fee or 1202 Recovery Fund deposit pertaining to the salesperson's, broker's, or company's salesperson, broker, or company license 1203 1204 once it has been in effect.



- 1205 (g) The commission shall prescribe a license renewal 1206 form, which shall accompany renewal fees which and shall be 1207 filed on or before August 31 of the final year of each license 1208 period in order for the respective license to be renewed on a 1209 timely basis for the following license period. If any of the 1210 foregoing are filed during the period from September 1 through 1211 September 30 of the final year of a license period, the one 1212 hundred fifty dollar (\$150) penalty set out below shall be 1213 paid in addition to the renewal fees. Failure to meet this September 30 deadline shall result in the license being placed 1214 1215 on inactive status on the following October 1, and the license shall be subject to all reactivation requirements. 1216 1217 Reactivations shall be processed in the order received as 1218 evidenced by postmark or delivery date. Certified or 1219 registered mail may be used for reactivation in these cases. Licensees filing during the period from September 1 of the 1220 final year of a license period through September 30 of the 1221 1222 initial year of a license period shall pay the required 1223 license fee, plus a penalty of one hundred fifty dollars 1224 (\$150).1225 (h) The renewal form shall be mailed by the commission 1226
- to the licensee's place of business, if an active licensee, or to his or her residence, if an inactive licensee, prior to

  August 1 of the final year of each license period. Each licensee shall notify the commission in writing of any change in his or her business or residence address within 30 days of the change.

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(i) Every license shall expire at midnight on September

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1233 30 of the final year of each license period. An expired 1234 license may be renewed during the 12-month period following 1235 the license period for which the license was current. A 1236 licensee who fails to renew before the end of the 12-month 1237 period following the license period for which the license was 1238 issued has a lapsed license, and shall be subject to all 1239 requirements applicable to persons who have never been 1240 licensed, however, the commission may upon determination of 1241 hardship, allow later renewal upon payment of all fees and 1242 penalties. An inactive license must be renewed in the same manner as an active license. 1243

(j)(1) Each applicant for renewal of an active 1244 1245 salesperson or broker license issued by the commission shall, 1246 on or before September 30 of the final year of each license 1247 period, submit proof of completion of not less than 15 clock 1248 hours of approved continuing education course work to the 1249 commission, in addition to any other requirements for renewal. 1250 Failure to meet this deadline shall result in the license 1251 being placed on inactive status on the following October 1, 1252 and the license shall be subject to all reactivation 1253 requirements. Reactivations shall be processed in the order 1254 received as evidenced by postmark or delivery date. Certified 1255 or registered mail may be used for reactivation in this case. 1256 Proof of attendance at the course work, whether or not the 1257 applicant attained a passing grade in the course, shall be 1258 sufficient to satisfy requirements for renewal. The 15 clock hours' course work requirement shall apply to each two-year 1259 1260 license renewal, and hours in excess of 15 shall not be



cumulated or credited for the purpose of subsequent license renewals. The commission shall develop standards for approval of courses, and shall require certification of the course work of the applicant.

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Time served as a member of the state Legislature during each license renewal period shall be deemed the equivalent of the 15 hours course work and shall satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

- (2) This section shall apply to renewals of licenses which expire after September 30, 1986. An applicant for first renewal who has been licensed for not more than one year shall not be required to comply with this section for the first renewal of the applicant's license. Any licensee reaching the age of 65 on or before September 30, 2000, and having been licensed 10 years prior to that date shall be exempt from this section.
- 1277 (3) Continuing education shall not result in a passing 1278 or failing grade.
- 1279 (k) A licensee may request that the commission issue
  1280 his or her license toas inactive status. Inactive licenses
  1281 shall be held at the commission office until activated. No act
  1282 for which a license is required shall be performed under an
  1283 inactive license.
- (1) If a licensee presents a form of payment to the

  commission, or to any third party on the commission's behalf,

  which is declined or rejected by a financial institution or

  merchant service company, the licensee shall have 30 days upon

  electronic notification from the commission to submit full and

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1289	valid payment for the initial fee or fine and an additional
1290	fee for submitting the faulty payment, not to exceed the
1291	<pre>maximum amount allowed by Section 8-8-15. Failure to submit</pre>
1292	full and valid payment within 30 days of electronic
1293	notification by the commission will result in the license
1294	becoming inactive. Failure to submit full and valid payment
1295	within six months after electronic notification by the
1296	commission will result in the license lapsing."
1297	Section 9. Section 34-27-35, Code of Alabama 1975, is
1298	amended to read as follows:

- 1299 "\$34-27-35
- (a) The commission shall prescribe the form and content 1300 1301 of license certificates issued. Each qualifying broker's 1302 license certificate shall show the name and business address 1303 of the broker. The license certificate of each active salesperson or associate broker shall show his or her name and 1304 1305 address. The license certificate of each active salesperson or 1306 associate broker shall be delivered or mailed to his or her 1307 qualifying broker. Each license certificate shall be kept by 1308 the qualifying broker and shall be publicly displayed at the 1309 address which appears on the license certificate.
- 1310 (b) The commission may establish a one-year or 1311 multi-year license period.
- 1312 (c) (1) The fee for a temporary license shall be one
  1313 hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The original fee for a
  1314 broker'sbroker license shall be one hundred fifty dollars
  1315 (\$150) and, beginning with the license period effective
  1316 October 1, 2002, the renewal fee for a broker's license shall

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be seventy-five dollars (\$75) per year for each year of the license period. The original fee for each salesperson's license shall be sixty-five dollars (\$65) per year for each year or portion of a year remaining in the respective license period, and the renewal fee for each salesperson's license shall be sixty-five dollars (\$65) per year for each year of the license period. The original fee for each company license shall be sixty-five dollars (\$65) per year for each year or portion of a year remaining in the respective license period, and the renewal fee for each license shall be sixty-five dollars (\$65) per year for each year of the license period. (2) Beginning with the license period effective October 1, 2004, the The renewal fee for a broker's broker license shall be ninety-five dollars (\$95) per year for each year of the license period. The original fee for each salesperson license shall be eighty-five dollars (\$85) per year for each year or portion of a year remaining in

salesperson's salesperson license shall be eighty-five dollars (\$85) per year for each year or portion of a year remaining is the respective license period, and the renewal fee for each salesperson's salesperson license shall be eighty-five dollars (\$85) per year for each year of the license period. The original fee for each company license shall be eighty-five dollars (\$85) per year for each year or portion of a year remaining in the respective license period, and the renewal fee for each license shall be eighty-five dollars (\$85) per

(d) (1) The renewal research and education fee shall be two seven dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) (\$7.50) per year for each year of the license period and shall be paid at the time

year for each year of the license period.

- of license renewal by all brokers and salespersons in addition
- 1346 to the license renewal fees set out in this section.
- 1347 Collection of this fee shall apply to all broker and
- 1348 salesperson renewals, except that brokers who hold more than
- one broker's broker license shall pay the fee for only one
- 1350 license at each renewal.
- 1351 (2) Beginning June 1, 2014, this fee shall be seven
- 1352 dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50), and the The proceeds shall be
- 1353 distributed to the Alabama Center for Real Estate.
- 1354 (e) The original research and education fee shall be
- 1355 thirty dollars (\$30) and shall be paid at the time of all
- 1356 applications received on and after October 15, 1995, for
- issuance of an original broker's broker license, and shall be
- 1358 paid at the time of all applications received on and after
- 1359 October 15, 1995, for issuance of a temporary
- 1360 salesperson's salesperson license. The original research and
- 1361 education fee shall also be paid by reciprocal salespersons.
- 1362 This is in addition to the original license fees set out in
- 1363 this section. This thirty dollar (\$30) original research and
- 1364 education fee is a one-time fee which no person shall be
- 1365 required to pay more than once.
- 1366 (f) The license of a salesperson who is subsequently
- issued a broker's broker license automatically terminates upon
- the issuance of his or her <u>broker's</u> <u>broker</u> license <u>certificate</u>.
- 1369 The salesperson's license certificate shall be returned to the
- 1370 commission in order for a broker's license to be issued. No
- 1371 refund shall be made of any fee or Recovery Fund deposit
- 1372 pertaining to the salesperson's, broker's, or

1373 <u>company's</u>salesperson, broker, or company license once it has
1374 been in effect.

- 1375 (g) The commission shall prescribe a license renewal 1376 form, which shall accompany renewal fees and which shall be 1377 filed on or before August 31 September 30 of the final year of 1378 each license period in order for the respective license to be 1379 renewed on a timely basis for the following license period. If 1380 any of the foregoing are filed during the period from September 1 through September 30 of the final year of a 1381 license period, the one hundred fifty dollar (\$150) penalty 1382 1383 set out below shall be paid in addition to the renewal fees. Failure to meet this September 30 deadline shall result in the 1384 1385 license expiring and being placed on inactive status on the following October 1, and the license shall be subject to all 1386 1387 reactivation requirements. Reactivations shall be processed in the order received as evidenced by postmark or delivery date. 1388 Certified or registered mail may be used for reactivation in 1389 1390 these cases. Licensees filing during the period from September 1391 1 of the final year of a license period throughafter September 1392 30 of the initial year of a license period shall pay the 1393 required license fee, plus a penalty of one hundred fifty 1394 dollars (\$150).
- (h) The renewal form shall be mailed by the commission
  to the licensee's place of business, if an active licensee, or
  to his or her residence, if an inactive licensee, prior to

  August 1 of the final year of each license period. Each
  licensee shall notify the commission in writing of any change
  in his or her business or residence address within 30 days of



1401 the change.

- (i) Every license shall expire at midnight on September 30 of the final year of each license period, except for a temporary salesperson whose license becomes inactive 90 days after issuance or a temporary broker whose license expires six months after issuance. An expired license may be renewed during the 12-month period following the license period for which the license was current. A licensee who fails to renew before the end of the 12-month period following the license period for which the license was issued has a lapsed license, and shall be subject to all requirements applicable to persons who have never been licensed, however, the commission may upon determination of hardship, allow later renewal upon payment of all fees and penalties. An inactive license must be renewed in the same manner as an active license.
- (j)(1) Each applicant for renewal of an active salesperson or broker license issued by the commission shall, on or before September 30 of the final year of each license period, submitconfirm through the commission's website proof of completion of not less than 15 clockhis or her continuing education requirement hours of approved continuing education course work to the commission, in addition to any other requirements for renewal. A maximum of six one-clock-hour courses shall be accepted by the commission as part of a licensee's continuing education requirement. Failure to meet this deadline shall result in the license being placed on inactive status on the following October 1, and the license shall be subject to all reactivation requirements.

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(2) a. Reactivations shall be processed in the order
received as evidenced by postmark or delivery date. Certified
or registered mail may be used for reactivation in this case.
Proof of attendance at the completion of course work, whether
or not the applicant attained a passing grade in the course,
shall be sufficient to satisfy requirements for renewal. The
15 clock hours' course work continuing education requirement
shall apply to each two-year license renewal, and hours in
excess of 15 shall not be <del>cumulated or credited for the</del>
purpose of applicable to subsequent license renewals. The
commission shall develop standards for approval of courses,
and shall require certification of the course work of the
applicant. No continuing education course shall be approved by
the commission unless the course is at least 60 minutes of
instruction.

b. Time served as a member of the state Legislature during each license renewal period shall be deemed the equivalent of the 15 hours course workcontinuing education requirement and shall satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

(3) (2) This section shall apply to renewals of licenses which expire after September 30, 1986. An applicant for first renewal of an original license who has been licensed for not more than one year shall not be required to comply with this section for the first renewal of the applicant's license. Any licensee reaching the age of 65 on or before September 30, 2000, and having been licensed 10 years prior to that date shall be exempt from this section.





- 1457 (3) (4) Continuing education shall not result in a
  1458 passing or failing grade.
- 1459 (k) A licensee may request that the commission issue
  1460 his or her license to in an inactive status. Inactive licenses
  1461 shall be held at the commission office until activated. No act
  1462 for which a license is required shall be performed under an
  1463 inactive license.
- 1464 (1) If a licensee presents a form of payment to the 1465 commission, or to any third party on the commission's behalf, 1466 which is declined or rejected by a financial institution or 1467 merchant service company, the licensee shall have 30 days upon electronic notification from the commission to submit full and 1468 1469 valid payment for the initial fee or fine and an additional 1470 fee for submitting the faulty payment, not to exceed the 1471 maximum amount allowed by Section 8-8-15. Failure to submit 1472 full and valid payment within 30 days of electronic 1473 notification by the commission will result in the license 1474 becoming inactive. Failure to submit full and valid payment 1475 within six months after electronic notification by the 1476 commission will result in the license lapsing."
- 1477 Section 10. Section 34-27-36, Code of Alabama 1975, is 1478 amended to read as follows:
- 1479 "\$34-27-36
- (a) (1) The commission or its staff may on its own, or on the verified complaint in writing of any person, investigate the actions and records of a licensee. The commission may issue subpoenas and compel the testimony of witnesses and the production of records and documents during

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an investigation. If probable cause is found, a formal
complaint shall be filed and the commission shall hold a
hearing on the formal complaint.

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- (2) In each instance in which a person or entity engages in any of the acts described in subsection (b) or is found in violation of any of the conduct prohibited in subsection (b), the commission may impose any of the following penalties:
- a. Impose a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
- b. Require completion of approved education course or courses in addition to the existing continuing education requirements.
  - c. Issue a public reprimand.
- 1499 d. Revoke or suspend any or all licenses held under this chapter by the person or entity The commission shall 1500 1501 revoke or suspend the license or impose a fine of not less 1502 than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500), or both, or reprimand the 1503 licensee in each instance in which the licensee is found 1504 1505 quilty of any of the following acts set out in this section. 1506 The commission may revoke or suspend a license until such time 1507 as the licensee has completed an approved continuing education 1508 course, and/orhas made restitution to accounts containing 1509 funds to be held for other parties, or both. The commission 1510 may also stay the revocation or suspension of a license and require completion of an approved education course and/or, 1511 1512 require the making of restitution to accounts containing funds



1513 to be held for other parties, or both.

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- 1514 (b) A licensee is prohibited from doing any of the
  1515 following:
- 1516 (1) Procuring or attempting to procure, a license, for
  1517 himself or herself or another, by fraud, misrepresentation, or
  1518 deceit, or by making a material misstatement of fact in an
  1519 application for a license.
  - (2) Engaging in misrepresentation or dishonest or fraudulent acts when selling, buying, trading, or renting real property of his or her own or of a spouse or child or parent.
- (3) Making a material misrepresentation, or failing to
  disclose to a potential purchaser or lessee any latent
  structural defect or any other defect known to the licensee.
  Latent structural defects and other defects do not refer to
  trivial or insignificant defects but refer to those defects
  that would be a significant factor to a reasonable and prudent
  person in making a decision to purchase or lease.
  - (4) Making any false promises of a character likely to influence, persuade, or induce any person to enter into any contract or agreement.
- 1533 (5) Pursuing a continued and flagrant course of
  1534 misrepresentation or the making of false promises through
  1535 agents or salespersons or any medium of advertising or
  1536 otherwise.
- 1537 (6) Publishing or causing to be published any
  1538 advertisement which deceives or which is likely to deceive the
  1539 public, or which in any manner tends to create a misleading

- impression or which fails to identify the person causing the advertisement to be placed as a licensed broker or salesperson.
- 1543 (7) Acting for more than one party in a transaction
  1544 without the knowledge and consent in writing of all parties
  1545 for whom he or she acts.
- 1546 (8) a. Failing, within a reasonable time, to properly
  1547 account for or remit money coming into his or her possession
  1548 which belongs to others, or commingling money belonging to
  1549 others with his or her own funds.
- b. Failing to deposit and account for at all times all funds belonging to, or being held for others, in a separate federally insured account or accounts in a financial institution located in Alabama.
- 1554 c. Failing to keep for at least three years a complete 1555 record of funds belonging to others showing to whom the money 1556 belongs, date deposited, date of withdrawal, and other 1557 pertinent information.
- 1558 (9) Placing a sign on any property offering it for 1559 sale, lease, or rent without the consent of the owner.
- 1560 (10) Failing to voluntarily furnish a copy of each
  1561 listing, contract, lease, and other document to each party
  1562 executing the document with reasonable promptness.
- 1563 (11) Paying any profit, compensation, commission, or
  1564 fee to, or dividing any profit, compensation, commission, or
  1565 fee with, anyone other than a licensee or multiple listing
  1566 service. This subdivision shall not prevent an associate
  1567 broker or salesperson from owning any lawfully constituted

- business organization, including, but not limited to, a

  corporation or limited liability company or limited liability

  corporation, for the purpose of receiving payments

  contemplated in this subsection. The business organization

  shall not be required to be licensed under this chapter, and

  shall not engage in any other activity requiring a real estate

  license.
- 1575 (12) Paying or receiving any rebate from any person in 1576 a real estate transaction.
- 1577 (13) Inducing any party to a contract to <a href="https://breakbreach">breakbreach</a>
  1578 the contract for the purpose of substituting a new contract,
  1579 where the substitution is motivated by the personal gain of
  1580 the licensee.
- 1581 (14) If the licensee is a salesperson or associate
  1582 broker, accepting a commission or other valuable consideration
  1583 for performing any act for which a license is required from
  1584 any person except his or her qualifying broker.
- 1585 (15) If the licensee is a qualifying broker or company, 1586 allowing a salesperson or associate broker licensed under him 1587 or her to advertise himself or herself as a real estate agent 1588 without the name or trade name of the qualifying broker or 1589 company appearing prominently on the advertising; or if the 1590 licensee is a salesperson or associate broker, advertising 1591 himself or herself as a real estate agent without the name or 1592 trade name of the qualifying broker or company under whom the 1593 salesperson or associate broker is licensed appearing prominently on the advertising. For purposes of this 1594 1595 subdivision, "prominently" means use of a font size that is



equal to or larger in size than any other text or logo in the

advertisement and situated and sized for the purpose of

gaining the attention of consumers viewing the advertisement.

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- or fine, a check that is returned unpaida. Failing, as the buyer's agent, to notify the listing agent in writing within three business days in the event that the buyer has not deposited earnest money in accordance with a contract requiring the buyer to deposit escrow funds with any person or entity.
- b. Failing, as the listing agent, to notify his or her

  client immediately if no written receipt of escrow funds has

  been provided to the listing agent within three business days

  of the time specified by the contract for deposit of escrow

  funds.
- 1611 (17) Establishing an association, by employment or
  1612 otherwise, with an unlicensed person who is expected or
  1613 required to act as a licensee, or aiding, abetting, or
  1614 conspiring with a person to circumvent the requirements of
  1615 this chapter.
- 1616 (18) Failing to disclose to an owner the licensee's

  1617 intention to acquire, directly or indirectly, an interest in

  1618 property which he or she or his or her associates have been

  1619 employed to sell.
- 1620 (19) Violating or disregarding any provision of this 1621 chapter or any rule, regulation, or order of the commission.
  - (20) If a broker, accepting accepts a "net listing" agreement for sale of real property or any interest therein. A



- "net listing" is one that stipulates a net price to be
  received by the owner with the excess due to be received by
  the broker as his or her commission.
- 1627 (21) Misrepresenting or failing to disclose to any
  1628 lender, guaranteeing agency, or any other interested party,
  1629 the true terms of a sale of real estate.
- 1630 (22) Failing to inform the buyer or seller at the time
  1631 an offer is presented that he or she will be expected to pay
  1632 certain closing costs and the approximate amount of those
  1633 costs.
- 1634 (23)a. Having entered a plea of guilty or nolo

  1635 contendere to, or having been found guilty of or convicted of

  1636 a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude.
- b. Having a final money judgment rendered against him
  or her which results from an act or omission occurring in the
  pursuit of his or her real estate business or involves the
  goodwill of an existing real estate business.
- 1641 (24) Offering free lots or conducting lotteries for the 1642 purpose of influencing a party to purchase or lease real 1643 estate.
- 1644 (25)<u>a.</u> Failing to <u>include a fixed date of expiration in</u>

  1645 <u>a written listing agreement or failing to</u> leave a copy of the

  1646 <u>written residential listing agreement or written residential</u>

  1647 property management agreement with the principal.
- b. Failing to include a fixed date of expiration, not

  to exceed one year from the date of commencement, in a written

  residential listing agreement.

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c. Recording or filing a residential listing agreement

1652	with a probate court or probate office to encumber the
1653	property that is the subject of the listing agreement.
1654	(26) Conduct which constitutes or demonstrates
1655	dishonest dealings, bad faith, or untrustworthiness.
1656	(27) Acting negligently or incompetently in performing
1657	an act for which a person is required to hold a real estate
1658	license.
1659	(28) Failing or refusing on demand to produce a
1660	document, book, or record in his or her possession concerning
1661	a real estate transaction conducted by him or her for
1662	inspection by the commission or its authorized personnel or
1663	representative.
1664	(29) Failing within a reasonable time to provide
1665	information requested by the commission during an
1666	investigation or after a formal complaint has been filed.
1667	(30) Failing without cause to surrender to the rightful
1668	owner, on demand, a document or instrument coming into his or
1669	her possession.
1670	(31) If the licensee is a qualifying broker or company,
1671	failing to keep in their files copies of all contracts,
1672	leases, listings, and other records pertinent to real estate
1673	transactions for a period of three years.
1674	(32) When selling, offering to sell, assigning, or
1675	offering to assign an equitable interest in a contract to
1676	<pre>purchase residential real estate:</pre>
1677	a. Failing to disclose in writing to a potential buyer

a. Failing to disclose in writing to a potential buyer

that the holder of the equitable interest is not the deed

holder of the property and is only offering to sell or assign



1680 his or her equitable interest; or	1680	his c	or her	equitable	interest; o	or
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- b. Failing to disclose in writing to a seller both of the following:
  - 1. The intent to assign an equitable interest in the seller's real estate prior to offering to assign the interest.
- 1685 <u>2. The assignment of the interest within three calendar</u> 1686 days following the assignment.

(b) (c) If it appears that a person, firm, corporation, or any business entity has engaged, or is about to engage, in an act or practice constituting a violation of Article 1 or 2 of this chapter or any rule or order of the commission, the commission, through the Attorney General, may institute legal actions to enjoin the act or practice and to enforce compliance with Articles 1 and 2 of this chapter or any rule or order of the commission. To prevail in an action, it shall not be necessary to allege or prove either that an adequate remedy at law does not exist or that substantial or irreparable damage would result from the continued violation.

(e) (d) (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the commission may issue an order requiring any accused person, firm, corporation, or business entity to cease and desist from engaging in activities requiring a license under this chapter when the accused person, firm, corporation, or business entity is not licensed under this chapter. The order shall be entered by the executive director after a finding of probable cause by the commission staff. The order shall become final 15 days after its service upon the accused, unless the accused requests a hearing before the commission. Upon hearing



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the case and finding violations, the commission may make the cease and desist order final and the commission may impose a fine for each violation in an amount consistent with the range of fines applicable to licensees, and in addition, may impose a fine in the amount of any gain or economic benefit that was derived from the violation, and in addition, may impose a fine in the amount of the commission's costs incurred. Any fines not paid as ordered shall be enforceable in any court with competent jurisdiction and proper venue.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the commission may decline to issue an order requiring any accused person, firm, corporation, or business entity to cease and desist from engaging in activities requiring a license under this chapter when the accused person, firm, corporation, or business entity is not licensed under this chapter. In this instance, the commission shall proceed to give appropriate notice of the violations and hold a hearing thereon. Upon hearing the case and finding violations, the commission may impose a fine for each violation in an amount consistent with the range of fines applicable to licensees, and in addition, may impose a fine in the amount of any gain or economic benefit that was derived from the violation, and in addition, may impose a fine in the amount of the commission's costs incurred. Any fine or fines not paid as ordered shall be enforceable in any court with competent jurisdiction and proper venue.

(d) (e) The commission shall notify the licensee and qualifying broker in writing regarding the complaint.





- 1736 (e) (f) The commission shall notify the complainant,
  1737 licensee, and qualifying broker in writing regarding the
  1738 disposition of the complaint."
- Section 11. Section 34-27-39 is added to the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:
- 1741 \$34-27-39
- 1742 (a) No licensee shall advertise or market as a team,
  1743 group, or other affiliation unless actively licensed as a team
  1744 by the commission.
- 1745 (b) The leader of any licensed team shall at a minimum
  1746 be a licensed Alabama associate broker.
- 1747 (c) A broker wishing to license a team must complete
  1748 the team license application established by the commission.
  1749 The application must be authorized by the leader of the
  1750 proposed team and the team leader's qualifying broker. The
  1751 application must include the name and license number of all
  1752 licensees that will initially be a member of the team.
- 1753 (d) The commission may establish a one-year or 1754 multi-year team license period.
- 1755 (e) The original fee for each team license shall be one 1756 hundred dollars (\$100) per year or portion of a year remaining 1757 in the respective license period, and the renewal fee for each 1758 team license shall be one hundred dollars (\$100) per year for 1759 each year of the license period. Team licenses must be renewed 1760 by September 30 of the final year of a licensing period, or the team shall be inactivated and subject to reactivation 1761 requirements. The fee to reactivate a team shall be fifty 1762 1763 dollars (\$50).



- (f) To dissolve a team, the request must be made as
  prescribed by the commission and approved by the team leader
  and the team leader's qualifying broker.
- 1767 (g) To change the name of a team, the fee shall be
  1768 fifty dollars (\$50), and the request must be made as
  1769 prescribed by the commission and approved by the team leader
  1770 and the team leader's qualifying broker.
- 1771 (h) To add or remove a member from a team, the fee
  1772 shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25) per member who is added or
  1773 removed. The request must be made as prescribed by the
  1774 commission and approved by the team leader and the team
  1775 leader's qualifying broker.
- 1776 (i) The team leader, the team leader's qualifying
  1777 broker, and the company's qualifying broker are all
  1778 responsible for supervising team members.
- 1779 (j) The team leader and the team leader's qualifying
  1780 broker are responsible for notifying the team members if a
  1781 team member is removed from a team or the team is dissolved or
  1782 inactivated.
- 1783 (k) No person shall be a member on more than one licensed team.
- (1) The commission shall adopt rules addressing teams and what words may or may not be used in a team name and how teams may advertise and market.
- 1788 Section 12. Sections 34-27-81, 34-27-82, 34-27-83, 1789 34-27-84, 34-27-85, and 34-27-86, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:
- 1791 "\$34-27-81



1792 As used in this article, the following words shall—have 1793 the following meanings:

- (1) AGENCY AGREEMENT. A written agreement between a broker and a client which creates a fiduciary relationship between the broker and a principal, who is commonly referred to as a client consumer.
- (2) BROKER. Any person licensed as a real estate broker pursuant to Articles 1 and 2 of this chapter.
- (3) BROKERAGE AGREEMENT. A specific written agreement between a brokerage firmreal estate company and a consumer which establishes a brokerage relationship. The brokerage agreement shall contain a statement of the terms and conditions of the brokerage services to be provided.
- (4) BROKERAGE SERVICE. Any service, except for rental or property management services, provided by a broker or licensee to another person and includes all activities for which a real estate license is required under Articles 1 and 2 of this chapter.
- 1810 (5) CONSUMER. A person who obtains information, advice,
  1811 or services concerning real estate from a real estate
  1812 licensee CLIENT. A person who has an agency agreement with a
  1813 broker for brokerage service, whether he or she is buyer or
  1814 seller.
- 1815 (6) CLIENT. A person who has an agency agreement with a

  1816 broker for brokerage service, whether he or she be buyer or

  1817 sellerCONSUMER. A person who obtains information, advice, or

  1818 services concerning real estate from a real estate licensee.
  - (7) CUSTOMER. A person who is provided brokerage

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1820	services by a broker or licensee but who is not a client of
1821	the broker.
1822	(8) DESIGNATED SINGLE AGENT. An agency agreement in
1823	which two or more licensed individuals under the same
1824	qualifying broker each represent a different party in the
1825	transaction, as designated by the qualifying broker. In this
1826	circumstance, neither the qualifying broker nor other
1827	licensees involved in the transaction shall be assumed to have
1828	<pre>imputed knowledge.</pre>
1829	(8) (9) DUAL AGENCY. An agency relationship agreement in
1830	which the same brokerage firma licensee, with informed written
1831	<pre>consent of all parties to a transaction, represents both the</pre>
1832	seller and the buyer in the same real estate transaction once
1833	all parties have signed the agreement. Circumstances which
1834	establish a dual agency include, but are not limited to, one
1835	of the following:
1836	a. When two or more licensees licensed under the same
1837	broker each represent a different party to the transaction.
1838	b. When one licensee represents both the buyer and
1839	seller in a real estate transaction.
1840	(10) IMPUTED KNOWLEDGE. Knowledge attributed to a party
1841	because of his or her position, relationship to another party,
1842	or responsibility for another party.
1843	$\frac{(9)}{(11)}$ INFORMED CONSENT. A consumer's agreement to
1844	allow something to happen which is based upon full disclosure
1845	of facts needed to choose appropriate brokerage services.
1846	$(\frac{10)}{(12)}$ LICENSEE. Any broker, salesperson, or company.
1847	(11) LIMITED CONSENSUAL DUAL ACENT. A licensee who,

1848	with the written informed consent of all parties to a
1849	contemplated real estate transaction, is engaged as an agent
1850	for both the buyer and seller. Circumstances which establish
1851	dual agency include, but are not limited to, one of the
1852	following:
1853	a. When two or more licensees licensed under the same
1854	broker each represent a different party to the transaction.
1855	b. When one licensee represents both the buyer and
1856	seller in a real estate transaction.
1857	$\frac{(12)}{(13)}$ MATERIAL FACT. A fact that is of significance
1858	to a reasonable party which affects the party's decision to
1859	enter into a real estate contract.
1860	$\frac{(13)}{(14)}$ QUALIFYING BROKER. A broker under whom a
1861	corporation, partnership, branch office, or lawfully
1862	constituted business organization, as the Legislature may from
1863	time to time provide, is licensed, or a broker licensed to do
1864	business as a sole proprietorship who is responsible for
1865	supervising the acts of the company, or proprietorship and all
1866	real estate licensees licensed therewith.
1867	$(\frac{14}{(15)})$ REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION. The purchase, sale,
1868	lease and rental, option, or exchange of an interest in real
1869	estate.
1870	(15) (16) SINGLE AGENT. A licensee who has an agency
1871	agreement and is engaged by and represents only one party in a
1872	real estate transaction. A single agent <del>includes, but is not</del>
1873	<pre>limited to, onemay be only one of the following:</pre>
1874	a. Buyer's agent, which means a broker or licensee who

is engaged by and represents only the buyer in a real estate



1876 transaction.

- b. Seller's agent, which means a broker or licensee who is engaged by and represents only the seller in a real estate transaction.
- 1880 (16) SUB-AGENT. A licensee who is empowered to act for

  1881 another broker in performing real estate brokerage tasks for a

  1882 principal, and who owes the same duties to the principal as

  the agent of the principal.
- 1884 (17) TRANSACTION BROKERFACILITATOR. The term has the

  1885 same meaning as "Transaction Broker" provided in Act 98-618.

  1886 The term also includes a licensee who assists one or more

  1887 parties in a contemplated real estate transaction without

  1888 being an agent or fiduciary or advocate for the interest of

  1889 that party to a transaction."

1890 "\$34-27-82

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- (a) When engaged in any real estate transaction, the licensee may act as a single agent, sub-agent, a limited consensual dual agent, or as a transaction brokerfacilitator.
- 1894 (b) At the initial contact between a licensee and the 1895 consumer and until such time a brokerlicensee enters into a 1896 specific written agreement to establish an agency relationship 1897 with one or more of the parties to a transaction, the licensee 1898 shall be considered a transaction facilitator and not be 1899 considered an agent of that consumer. An agency relationship 1900 shall not be assumed, implied, or created without a written 1901 bilateral agreement signed by the licensee and the consumer establishing the terms of the agency relationship. 1902
  - (c) As soon as reasonably possible and before any

1904	confidential information is disclosed to any other person by a
1905	licensee, the licensee shall provide a written disclosure form
1906	to a consumer for signature describing the alternative types
1907	of brokerage services, as identified in subsection (a), that
1908	are available to clients and customers of real estate
1909	brokerage companies. The licensee shall also inform a consumer
1910	as to the specific types of brokerage services that are
1911	provided by his or her company. A broker shall not be required
1912	to offer or engage in any one or in all of the alternative
1913	brokerage <u>arrangements</u> services specified in subsection (a).
1914	The licensee will provide a written form to the consumer for
1915	their signature describing the <b>alternative</b> types of brokerage
1916	arrangements services available. All rental or property
1917	management services are excluded from the requirements of this
1918	subsection.

- (d) A licensee shall not be required to comply with the 1919 1920 provisions of subsection (c) when engaged in transactions with 1921 any corporation, non-profit corporation, professional 1922 corporation, professional association, limited liability 1923 company, partnership, any partnership created under the 1924 Uniform Partnership Act (commencing at Section 10-8A-101), 1925 real estate investment trust, business trust, charitable 1926 trust, family trust, or any governmental entity in 1927 transactions involving real estate.
  - (e) After disclosure, the consumer may make an affirmative election of a specific type of brokerage arrangementservice that is available from the real estate brokerage company. The brokerage agreement shall contain a

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statement of the terms and conditions of the brokerage

services that the brokercompany will provide. In the absence

of a signed brokerage agreement between the parties, the

transaction brokerage facilitator relationship shall remain in

effect.

- (f) When serving as a transaction brokerfacilitator, the duties of the licensee to all the parties to a real estate transaction are limited to those which are enumerated in Section 34-27-84. A signed brokerage agreement between the parties or, in the absence of a signed brokerage agreement, the continuation of the transaction brokerage facilitator relationship, shall constitute informed consent by the consumer as to the services the consumer shall receive from the broker.
- 1946 (g) Disclosure forms shall be provided to buyers and
  1947 sellers. All real estate brokerage firms companies operating
  1948 within the State of Alabama shall use the same agency
  1949 disclosure forms. Disclosure forms describing the alternative
  1950 types of brokerage services identified above shall be written
  1951 by the Alabama Real Estate Commission.
- 1952 (h) Each offer to purchase shall prominently display a

  1953 representation disclosure clause in the following form,

  1954 completed and initialed as indicated:

The listing licensee, , is:

1956  $\square$  An agent of the seller.

1957 □ A dual agent.

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The selling licensee, , is:



1960	□ An agent of the buyer.
1961	□ A dual agent.
1962	☐ Assisting the buyer as a transaction facilitator.
1963	(h)(i) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the
1964	consumer from entering into a written contract with a
1965	qualifying broker which contains provisions for services not
1966	specifically identified in the written disclosure form."
1967	<b>"</b> §34-27-83
1968	Any qualifying broker acting in a real estate
1969	transaction shall adopt a written agency disclosure office
1970	policy which specifically enumerates the types of brokerage
1971	service arrangements services a licensee may offer or accept.
1972	(a) The qualifying broker for each brokerage real estate
1973	company shall provide every licensee a copy of the agency
1974	disclosure policy regarding the types of brokerage services
1975	offered by their company. This policy shall be explained to
1976	all licensees at least once a year.
1977	(b) A form acknowledging receipt of the agency
1978	<pre>disclosure office policy statement and a satisfactory</pre>
1979	explanation of its contents shall be signed by each licensee
1980	and a copy retained by the <a href="https://brokerage.real_estate">brokerage</a> real estate company for
1981	three years."
1982	<b>"</b> §34-27-84
1983	(a) Licensees shall have all of the following
1984	obligations to all parties in a real estate transaction:
1985	(1) To provide brokerage services to all parties to the
1986	transaction honestly and in good faith.

(2) To exercise reasonable skill and care in providing



1988 brokerage services to all parties.

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- 1989 (3) To keep confidential any information given to the 1990 licensee in confidence, or any information obtained by the 1991 licensee that the licensee knows a reasonable individual would 1992 want to keep confidential, unless disclosure of this 1993 information is required by law, violates a fiduciary duty to a 1994 client, becomes public knowledge, or is authorized by the 1995 party in writing, or the information becomes public knowledge, 1996 or the failure to disclose the information violates a 1997 fiduciary duty to a client.
  - (4) To account for all property coming into the possession of the licensee that belongs to any party to the real estate transaction.
- 2001 (5) When assisting a party in the negotiation of a real 2002 estate transaction, to present all written offers in a timely 2003 and truthful manner.
- 2004 (6) To act on behalf of the licensee or his or her
  2005 immediate family, or on behalf of any other individual,
  2006 organization, or business entity in which the licensee has a
  2007 personal interest only with prior timely written disclosure of
  2008 this interest to all parties to the transaction.
- 2009 (b) A licensee may provide requested information which
  2010 affects a transaction to any party who requests the
  2011 information, unless disclosure of the information is
  2012 prohibited by law or in this article.
- 2013 (c) When accepting an agreement to list an owner's
  2014 property for sale, the broker or his or her licensee shall, at
  2015 a minimum, accept delivery of and present to the consumer all



offers, counteroffers, and addenda to assist the consumer in negotiating offers, counteroffers, and addenda, and to answer the consumer's questions relating to the transaction."

2019 "\$34-27-85

- 2020 (a) In addition to the duties enumerated in Section 2021 34-27-84, a licensee shall provide all of the following 2022 services to clients:
- 2023 (1) Loyally represent the best interests of the client
  2024 by placing the interests of the client ahead of the interests
  2025 of any other party, unless loyalty to a client violates the
  2026 duties of the licensee to other parties under Section
  2027 34-27-84, or is otherwise prohibited by law.
- 2028 (2) Disclose to the client all information known by the
  2029 licensee that is material to the transaction and not
  2030 discoverable by the client through reasonable investigation
  2031 and observation, except for confidential information as
  2032 provided in subdivision (a) (3) of subsection (a) of Section
  2033 34-27-84. A licensee shall have no affirmative duty to
  2034 discover the information.
- 2035 (3) Fulfill any obligation required by the agency
  2036 agreement, and any lawful instructions of the client that are
  2037 within the scope of the agency agreement, that are not
  2038 inconsistent with other duties as enumerated in this article.
- 2039 (b) A brokerlicensee who represents more than one
  2040 client in a real estate transaction owes the duties as
  2041 specified in subsection (a) to each client, except where the
  2042 duties to one client will violate the fiduciary duties of the
  2043 licensee to other clients.

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- 2044 (c) A <u>broker\_licensee</u> may provide brokerage services as

  2045 a <u>limited consensual</u> dual agent only with the prior written,

  2046 informed consent of all clients of the <u>broker\_licensee</u> in the

  2047 transaction."
- 2048 "\$34-27-86
- 2049 (a) A client is not liable for a misrepresentation made
  2050 by a brokerlicensee in connection with the brokerlicensee
  2051 providing brokerage services unless the client knows or should
  2052 have known of the misrepresentation or the brokerlicensee is
  2053 repeating a misrepresentation made by the client to the
  2054 brokerlicensee.
- 2055 (b) A licensee shall not be liable for providing false
  2056 information to a party in a real estate transaction if the
  2057 false information was provided to the licensee by a client of
  2058 the licensee or by a customer or by another licensee unless
  2059 the licensee knows or should have known that the information
  2060 was false."

Section 13. Sections 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, and 12 shall become effective on October 1, 2024; Sections 5, 6, 9, and 11 shall become effective on October 1, 2026, and shall apply to licenses issued or renewed on or after that date; and Section 2 shall become effective on October 1, 2027, and shall apply to licenses issued or renewed on or after that date.