

2002 MAR 18 P 5: 34

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE Regular Session, 2002

ENROLLED

Com. Sub. For Com. Sub. For			
SENATE BIL			
(By Senator <u>h</u>	owman, Ba	iley and Rowe)	
PASSED	March 5.	2002	
In Effect	C	Passage	

2002 MAR 18 P 5: 34

CAPATRA MARS A VIRGINIA
SECULTARY OF STATE

ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

Senate Bill No. 453

(SENATORS BOWMAN, BAILEY AND ROWE, original sponsors)

[Passed March 5, 2002; in effect from passage.]

AN ACT to repeal article twelve, chapter forty-seven of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended; and to amend chapter thirty of said code by adding thereto a new article, designated article forty, relating to the West Virginia real estate license act; requiring license to sell real estate; providing definitions; scope of practice; exceptions; qualifications, terms, appointments and removal of members; powers and duties of commission; providing rule-making authority; qualifications and requirements for licensure; standards for examinations; continuing education requirements; issuing and renewing licenses; denying, suspending, revoking or reinstating licenses; professional conduct; fees; special revenue account; administrative fines;

providing immunity from civil liability for commission members and persons reporting violations; requiring definite place of business of licensees; displaying license certificates; trust fund accounts; prohibiting commingling funds; delineating prohibited acts; investigating and resolving complaints against licensees; hearings and judicial review; penalties for violations; injunctions; criminal proceedings for violations; requirements for bringing action for recovery of compensation; duties of licensees; duration of existing licensees; and continuation of commission.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That article twelve, chapter forty-seven of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be repealed; and that chapter thirty of said code be amended by adding thereto a new article, designated article forty, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 40. WEST VIRGINIA REAL ESTATE LICENSE ACT.

§30-40-1. Legislative findings.

- 1 The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the
- 2 practice of real estate brokerage is a privilege and any
- 3 person engaged in the professional practice of real estate
- 4 brokerage should possess the requisite experience and
- 5 training and be subject to adequate regulation and control.
- 6 As a matter of public policy, it is necessary to protect the
- 7 public interest from the unauthorized, unqualified and
- 8 unregulated practice of real estate brokerage through
- 9 enactment of this article and to regulate the granting of
- 10 such privileges and their use. This article shall be liberally
- 11 construed to carry out these purposes.

§30-40-2. Short title.

- 1 This article shall be known and may be cited as the
- 2 "West Virginia Real Estate License Act".

§30-40-3. License required.

- 3 [Enr. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. No. 453
- 1 It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in or carry
- 2 on, directly or indirectly, or to advertise or hold himself or
- 3 herself out as engaging in or carrying on the business or
- 4 act in the capacity of a real estate broker, associate broker
- 5 or salesperson within this state without first obtaining a
- 6 license as provided for in this article.

§30-40-4. Definitions.

- 1 Unless the context in which used clearly requires a
- 2 different meaning, as used in this article:
- 3 (a) "Applicant" means any person who is making
- 4 application to the commission for a license.
- 5 (b) "Associate broker" means any person who qualifies
- 6 for a broker's license, but who is employed or engaged by
- 7 a licensed broker to engage in any activity regulated by
- 8 this article, in the name of and under the direct supervi-
- 9 sion of the licensed broker.
- 10 (c) "Broker" means any person who for compensation or
- 11 with the intention or expectation of receiving or collecting
- 12 compensation:
- 13 (1) Lists, sells, purchases, exchanges, options, rents,
- 14 manages, leases or auctions any interest in real estate; or
- 15 (2) Directs or assists in the procuring of a prospect
- 16 calculated or intended to result in a real estate transaction:
- 17 or
- 18 (3) Advertises or holds himself or herself out as engaged
- 19 in, negotiates or attempts to negotiate, or offers to engage
- 20 in any activity enumerated in subdivision (1) of this
- 21 subsection.
- 22 (d) "Commission" means the West Virginia real estate
- 23 commission as established in section six of this article.
- 24 (e) "Compensation" means fee, commission, salary or
- 25 other valuable consideration, in the form of money or
- 26 otherwise.

- 27(f) "Designated broker" means a person holding a
- 28 broker's license who has been appointed by a partnership.
- association, corporation, or other form of business organi-29
- zation engaged in the real estate brokerage business, to be 30
- responsible for the acts of the business and to whom the 31
- partners, members, or board of directors have delegated 32
- full authority to conduct the real estate brokerage activi-33
- ties of the business organization. 34
- (g) "Distance education" means courses of instruction in 35
- which instruction takes place through media where the 36
- teacher and student are separated by distance and some-37
- 38 times by time.
- (h) "Inactive" means a licensee who is not authorized to 39
- conduct any real estate business and is not required to 40
- comply with any continuing education requirements. 41
- 42 (i) "License" means a license to act as a broker, associate
- 43 broker or salesperson.
- (j) "Licensee" means a person holding a license. 44
- (k) "Member" means a commissioner of the real estate 45
- 46 commission.
- 47 (l) "Real estate" means any interest or estate in land and
- 48 anything permanently affixed to land.
- 49 (m) "Salesperson" means a person employed or engaged
- by or on behalf of a broker to do or deal in any activity 50
- included in this article, in the name of and under the direct 51
- supervision of a broker, other than an associate broker.

§30-40-5. Scope of practice; exceptions.

- (a) The practice of real estate brokerage includes acting 1
- 2 in the capacity of a broker, associate broker or salesperson
- as defined in section four of this article.
- 4 (b) The practice of real estate brokerage does not include
- 5 the activities normally performed by an appraiser, mort-

- 6 gage company, lawyer, engineer, contractor, surveyor,
- 7 home inspector or other professional who may perform an
- 8 ancillary service in conjunction with a real estate transac-
- 9 tion.
- 10 (c) The provisions of this article do not apply to:
- 11 (1) Any person acting on his or her own behalf as owner
- 12 or lessor of real estate.
- 13 (2) The regular employees of an owner of real estate, who
- 14 perform any acts regulated by this article, where the acts
- 15 are incidental to the management of the real estate:
- 16 Provided, That the employee does not receive additional
- 17 compensation for the act and does not perform the act as
- 18 a vocation.
- 19 (3) Attorneys-at-law: Provided, That attorneys-at-law
- 20 shall be required to submit to the written examination
- 21 required under section twelve of this article in order to
- 22 qualify for a broker's license: Provided, however, That an
- 23 attorney-at-law who is licensed as a real estate broker
- 24 prior to the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred
- 25 eighty is exempt from the written examination required
- 26 under section twelve of this article.
- 27 (4) Any person holding, in good faith, a valid power of
- 28 attorney from the owner or lessor of the real estate.
- 29 (5) Any person acting as a receiver, trustee, administra-
- 30 tor, executor, guardian, conservator or under the order of
- 31 any court or under the authority of a deed of trust or will.
- 32 (6) A public officer while performing his or her official
- 33 duties.
- 34 (7) Any person acquiring or disposing of any interest in
- 35 timber or minerals, or acquiring or disposing of properties
- 36 for easements and rights-of-ways for pipelines, electric
- 37 power lines and stations, public utilities, railroads or
- 38 roads.

- 39 (8) Any person employed exclusively to act as the
- 40 management or rental agent for the real estate of one
- 41 person, partnership or corporation.
- 42 (9) Any person properly licensed pursuant to the provi-
- 43 sions of article two-c, chapter nineteen of this code when
- 44 conducting an auction, any portion of which contains any
- 45 leasehold or estate in real estate, only when the person so
- 46 licensed is retained to conduct an auction by:
- 47 (A) A receiver or trustee in bankruptcy;
- 48 (B) A fiduciary acting under the authority of a deed of
- 49 trust or will; or
- 50 (C) A fiduciary of a decedent's estate.
- 51 (10) Any person employed by a broker in a noncommis-
- 52 sioned clerical capacity who may in the normal course of
- 53 employment, be required to:
- 54 (A) Disseminate brokerage preprinted and predeter-
- 55 mined real estate sales and rental information:
- 56 (B) Accept and process rental reservations or bookings
- 57 for a period not to exceed thirty consecutive days in a
- 58 manner and procedure predetermined by the broker;
- 59 (C) Collect predetermined rental fees for the rentals
- 60 which are to be promptly tendered to the broker; or
- 61 (D) Any combination thereof.

§30-40-6. Commission created; membership; appointment and removal of members; qualifications; terms; organization.

- 1 (a) The West Virginia real estate commission is hereby
- 2 continued. The members of the commission in office on
- 3 the date this section takes effect shall, unless sooner
- 4 removed, continue to serve until their respective terms
- 5 expire and until their successors have been appointed and
- 6 qualified.

- 7 (b) (1) Commencing with the terms beginning with the 8
 - first day of July, two thousand two, the commission shall
- 9 consist of five persons appointed for terms of four years by
- 10 the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.
- 11 Four commissioners must be licensed under the provisions
- 12 of this article and one commissioner must be a citizen
- 13 member who is not licensed under the provisions of this
- article. 14
- 15 (2) Each licensed commissioner, at the time of his or her
- 16 appointment, must have been licensed and practiced in
- 17 this state as a real estate broker, associate broker or
- salesperson as his or her primary vocation for a period of 18
- not less than ten years immediately preceding the appoint-19
- 20ment. Each commissioner must have been a resident of
- 21this state for at least six years prior to his or her appoint-
- 22ment and must remain a resident during the appointment
- 23term. No more than four commissioners shall belong to
- 24 the same political party.
- 25(3) The appointment of three licensed commissioners,
- whether for a full term or to fill a vacancy, shall be made 26
- 27by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.
- 28 The appointment of one licensed commissioner, whether
- 29 for a full term or to fill a vacancy, shall be made by the
- 30 governor from among three nominees selected by the West
- 31 Virginia association of realtors. If the appointment is for
- 32a full term, the nominations must be submitted to the
- governor not later than three months prior to the date on 33
- 34which the appointment becomes effective. If the appoint-
- 35 ment is to fill a vacancy, the nominations must be submit-
- 36 ted to the governor within thirty days after a request for
- 37 the nominations has been made by the governor to the
- 38 West Virginia association of realtors. If the association
- 39 fails to submit nominations in accordance with the
- requirements of this section, the governor may make the 40
- 41 appointment without the nominations.
- 42 (c) Any commissioner immediately and automatically
- 43 forfeits his or her membership on the commission if he or

- she has his or her license to practice as a real estate broker.
- associate broker or salesperson suspended or revoked by 45
- the board, is convicted of a felony under the laws of this 46
- 47 state or of the United States, becomes a nonresident of this
- state, or holds any elective public office or becomes a 48
- 49 member of any political committee.
- 50 (d) No member of the commission may be removed from
- office by the governor except for official misconduct, 51
- incompetency, neglect of duty, gross immorality or other 52
- good cause, but then only in the manner prescribed by law 53
- 54 for the removal by the governor of state elective officials.
- 55 (e) No member of the commission may serve more than
- two consecutive full terms and any member having served 56
- 57 two full terms may not be appointed for one year after
- completion of his or her second full term. A member shall 58
- continue to serve until his or her successor has been 59
- 60appointed and qualified.
- 61 (f) The governor shall designate one member of the
- commission as chairman and the members shall choose a 62
- vice chairman and a secretary, each of whom shall con-63
- 64 tinue to serve in their respective capacity until replaced.
- 65 (g) Three members shall constitute a quorum for the
- 66 conduct of official business.
- 67 (h) Each commissioner shall receive the same compensa-
- tion as is paid to members of the Legislature for their 68
- 69 interim duties as recommended by the citizens legislative
- 70 compensation commission and authorized by law for each
- day or portion thereof engaged in the discharge of official 71
- duties. Each commissioner shall be reimbursed for his or 72
- her actual and necessary expenses for each day or portion 73
- 74thereof engaged in the discharge of official duties in a
- manner consistent with guidelines of the travel manage-75
- ment office of the department of administration.

§30-40-7. General powers and duties.

- 9 [Enr. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. No. 453
- 1 The commission has all the powers set forth in article
- 2 one of this chapter and in addition:
- (a) May sue and be sued in its official name as an agencyof this state;
- 5 (b) Shall employ an executive director and shall fix his
- 6 or her compensation subject to the general laws of this
- 7 state. The commission shall determine the duties of the
- 8 executive director, as it shall deem necessary and appro-
- 9 priate to discharge the duties imposed by the provisions of
- 10 this code;
- 11 (c) Shall employ or contract with such other investiga-
- 12 tors, hearing examiners, attorneys, consultants, clerks and
- 13 assistants as the commission deems necessary and deter-
- 14 mine the duties and fix the compensation of such investi-
- 15 gators, clerks and assistants subject to the general laws of
- 16 this state;
- 17 (d) Shall have the authority to issue subpoenas and
- 18 subpoenas duces tecum through any member, its executive
- 19 director or any duly authorized representative;
- 20 (e) Shall prescribe, examine and determine the qualifica-
- 21 tions of any applicant for a license;
- 22 (f) Shall provide for an appropriate examination of any
- 23 applicant for a license;
- 24 (g) May enter into agreements with other jurisdictions
- 25 whereby the license issued by another jurisdiction may be
- 26 recognized as successfully qualifying a nonresident for a
- 27 license in this state without additional education or
- 28 examination requirements;
- 29 (h) Shall issue, renew, deny, suspend, revoke or reinstate
- 30 licenses and take disciplinary action against any licensee;
- 31 (i) May investigate or cause to be investigated alleged
- 32 violations of the provisions of this article, the rules

- 33 promulgated hereunder and the orders or final decisions of
- 34 the commission;
- 35 (j) Shall conduct hearings or cause hearings to be
- 36 conducted upon charges calling for the discipline of a
- 37 licensee or for the suspension or revocation of a license;
- 38 (k) May examine the books and records relating to the
- 39 real estate business of a licensee if the licensee is charged
- 40 in a complaint of any violation of this article, commission
- 41 rule, or any order or final decision issued by the commis-
- 42 sion: Provided, That such examination shall not extend
- 43 beyond the specific violation charged in the complaint;
- 44 (l) May impose one or more sanctions as considered
- 45 appropriate in the circumstances for the discipline of a
- 46 licensee. Available sanctions include, but are not limited
- 47 to, denial of a license or renewal thereof, administrative
- 48 fine not to exceed one thousand dollars per day per
- 49 violation, probation, revocation, suspension, restitution,
- 50 require additional education, censure, denial of future
- 51 license, downgrade of license, reprimand or order the
- 52 return of compensation collected from an injured con-
- 53 sumer:
- 54 (m) Shall meet at least once each calendar year at such
- 55 place and time as the commission shall designate and at
- 56 such other times and places as it considers necessary to
- 57 conduct commission business:
- 58 (n) Shall publish an annual directory of licensees in
- 59 compliance with the provisions of section thirteen, article
- 60 one, chapter thirty of this code;
- 61 (o) May sponsor real estate related educational seminars,
- 62 courses, workshops or institutes, may incur and pay the
- 63 necessary expenses and may charge a fee for attendance;
- 64 (p) May assist libraries, institutions and foundations
- 65 with financial aid or otherwise, in providing texts, spon-
- 66 soring studies, surveys and programs;

- 11 [Enr. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. No. 453
- 67 (q) May perform compliance audits on real estate
- 68 brokerage offices, education providers or any other person
- regulated by the commission; 69
- 70 (r) May provide distance education courses for appli-
- cants for a license sufficient to meet the educational 71
- 72requirements contained in subsections (a) and (b), section
- fourteen of this article; and 73
- 74 (s) Shall take all other actions necessary and proper to
- 75 effectuate the purposes of this article.

§30-40-8. Rule-making authority.

- 1 (a) The commission may propose rules for legislative
- 2 approval in accordance with the provisions of article three,
- 3 chapter twenty-nine-a of this code which are necessary for
- 4 the conduct of its business, the holding of hearings and for
- 5 the general implementation, enforcement and administra-
- tion of the provisions of this article, including, but not
- limited to, establishing, administering and governing the 7
- 8 following:
- 9 (1) Fees for applications, examinations, licenses, renewal
- 10 of licenses, changes to licenses requiring reissuance.
- courses, investigations, copies of records, license certifica-11
- 12tions and other fees considered necessary by the commis-
- 13 sion, none of which shall be prorated or refundable:
- Provided, That the fee schedule in effect prior to enact-14
- ment of this article, enumerated in section nine, article
- 16
- twelve, chapter forty-seven of this code, shall continue to
- 17 be effective until withdrawn, revoked or amended;
- 18 (2) The minimum requirements and qualifications
- 19 necessary for approval by the commission of providers,
- instructors and the course content of any prelicense 20
- education course required in section fourteen of this 21
- 22 article;
- 23(3) The experience required of an applicant;
- 24(4) The minimum standards for licensure;

- 25 (5) The standards for examinations;
- 26 (6) The minimum requirements and qualifications
- 27 necessary for approval by the commission of providers.
- 28 instructors and courses of continuing professional educa-
- 29 tion required by section sixteen of this article;
- 30 (7) Continuing professional education requirements for
- 31 licensees, including any exemptions;
- 32 (8) Renewal of licenses;
- 33 (9) Use of firm or trade name;
- 34 (10) Denying, suspending, revoking or reinstating a
- 35 license;
- 36 (11) Form and use of contracts used in a real estate
- 37 transaction;
- 38 (12) Notification required to clients or customers of
- 39 agency relationship;
- 40 (13) Professional conduct requirements; and
- 41 (14) Any other purpose to carry out the requirements of
- 42 this article or to protect the public interest.
- 43 (b) All rules in effect as of the passage of this article
- 44 previously promulgated by the commission pursuant to
- 45 article twelve, chapter forty-seven of this code will remain
- 46 in effect until amended, modified, repealed or replaced,
- 47 except that references to provisions of former enactments
- 48 of this article are interpreted to mean provisions of this
- 49 article.

§30-40-9. Fees; special revenue account; administrative fines.

- 1 (a) All fees and other moneys, except administrative
- 2 fines, received by the commission shall be deposited into
- 3 the treasury of the state, at least once each month, into a
- 4 special revenue fund known as the "real estate license
- 5 fund" which is continued.

- 6 (b) Except as may be provided in section ten, article one
- 7 of this chapter, the commission shall retain the amounts in
- 8 the special revenue fund from year to year and no funds
- 9 collected under this article may be used by the commission
- 10 for any purpose other than the administration and en-
- 11 forcement of this article. No compensation or expense
- 12 incurred under this article is a charge against the general
- 13 revenue fund.
- 14 (c) Any amounts received as administrative fines im-
- 15 posed pursuant to this article shall be deposited into the
- 16 general revenue fund of the state treasury.

§30-40-10. Civil liability for commission members; liability limitations of person reporting to commission.

- 1 (a) Members of the commission shall be immune from
- 2 individual civil liability for actions taken in good faith and
- 3 without malice, within the scope of their duties as commis-
- 4 sion members.
- 5 (b) Any person who reports or otherwise provides
- 6 evidence of violations of this article, the commission's
- 7 rules, orders or final decisions to the commission or other
- 8 law-enforcement agency, is not liable for making the
- 9 report if it is made without malice and in the reasonable
- 10 belief that the report is warranted by the facts known to
- 11 him or her at the time.

§30-40-11. Application for license.

- 1 The commission shall only issue an original license to an
- 2 applicant if he or she:
- 3 (a) Submits an application, in writing, in a form pre-
- 4 scribed by the commission which must contain, but is not
- 5 limited to:
- 6 (1) The applicant's social security number;
- 7 (2) The recommendation of at least two persons who:

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- 8 (A) Are property owners at the time of signing the
- 9 application;
- 10 (B) Have been property owners for at least twelve
- 11 months preceding the signing of the application;
- 12 (C) Have known the applicant for at least two years;
- 13 (D) Are not related to the applicant;
- (E) Are not affiliated with the applicant as an employer,
- 15 partner or associate or with the broker that will employ
- 16 the applicant;
- 17 (F) Believe the applicant bears a good reputation for
- 18 honesty, trustworthiness and fair dealing; and
- 19 (G) Believe the applicant is competent to transact the
- 20 business of a real estate broker, associate broker or
- 21 salesperson, as the case may be, in a manner that would
- 22 protect the interest of the public.
- 23 (3) A clear record indicating all jurisdictions where the
- 24 applicant holds or has held any professional license.
- 25 (4) A clear record indicating if the applicant has been
- 26 convicted of any criminal offense or if there is any crimi-
- 27 nal charge pending against the applicant, or a member or
- 28 officer of the brokerage business, at the time of applica-
- 29 tion.
- 30 (b) Is at least eighteen years of age.
- 31 (c) Is a high school graduate or the holder of an equiva-
- 32 lency diploma.
- 33 (d) Is trustworthy, of good moral character and compe-
- 34 tent to transact the business of a broker, associate broker
- 35 or salesperson.
- 36 (e) Has paid the appropriate fee, if any, which must
- 37 accompany all applications for original license or renewal.

§30-40-12. Qualifications for broker's license.

- 15 [Enr. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. No. 453
- 1 (a) An applicant for a broker's license shall:
- 2 (1) Have served an apprenticeship as a licensed salesper-
- 3 son for two years or shall produce evidence satisfactory to
- 4 the commission, in its sole discretion, of real estate experi-
- 5 ence equivalent to two years full-time experience as a
- 6 licensed salesperson;
- 7 (2) Submit satisfactory evidence of having completed the
- 8 required education course as provided for in section
- 9 fourteen of this article:
- 10 (3) Successfully pass the examination or examinations
- 11 provided by the commission.
- 12 (b) No broker's license shall be issued in the name of a
- 13 corporation, association or partnership except through one
- 14 of its members or officers.
- 15 (c) No broker's license shall be issued in the name of a
- 16 corporation, association or partnership unless each
- 17 member or officer, who will engage in the real estate
- 18 business, obtains a license as a real estate salesperson or
- 19 associate broker.

§30-40-13. Qualifications for salesperson's license.

- 1 An applicant for a salesperson's license shall:
- 2 (1) Submit satisfactory evidence of having completed the
- 3 required education course as provided in section fourteen
- 4 of this article.
- 5 (2) Successfully pass the examination or examinations
- 6 provided by the commission.

§30-40-14. Prelicense education.

- 1 (a) Applicants for a broker's license shall provide
- 2 evidence satisfactory to the commission that he or she has
- 3 completed at least one hundred eighty clock-hours,
- equivalent to twelve college semester credit hours, in a
- 5 course or courses approved by the commission: *Provided*,

- 6 That an applicant for a broker's license who holds a
- 7 salesperson's license in this state shall only be required to
- 8 provide evidence that he or she has completed ninety
- 9 clock-hours, equivalent to six college semester hours, in a
- 10 course or courses approved by the commission.
- 11 (b) Applicants for a salesperson's license shall provide
- 12 evidence satisfactory to the commission that he or she has
- 13 completed ninety clock-hours, equivalent to six college
- 14 semester credit hours, in a course or courses approved by
- 15 the commission.
- 16 (c) Any course required by subsection (a) or (b) of this
- 17 section must have been completed during the five-year
- 18 period preceding the date of application in order to be
- 19 accepted by the commission.

§30-40-15. Licensing nonresidents.

- 1 (a) The commission may recognize a valid license issued
- 2 by another jurisdiction as satisfactorily qualifying a
- 3 nonresident person to obtain a comparable license in this
- 4 state: Provided, That the nonresident has qualified for
- 5 original license in his or her jurisdiction of residence by
- 6 examination and by complying with all the provisions for
- 7 obtaining an original license in that jurisdiction and the
- 8 jurisdiction affords the same privilege to licensees of this
- 9 state.
- 10 (b) In order to obtain a license in this state, a nonresident
- 11 applicant must:
- 12 (1) Submit the appropriate application and fee, if any;
- 13 (2) Sign a statement that the applicant has read the real
- 14 estate license law and rules of this state and agrees to
- 15 abide by those provisions in all brokerage activity con-
- 16 ducted in this state;
- 17 (3) Cause the real estate licensing body of the applicant's
- 18 resident jurisdiction to furnish a certification of licensure

- which shall contain a clear record of any disciplinary actions;
- 21 (4) Cause the real estate licensing body of any other
- 22 jurisdiction where the applicant currently holds or has
- 23 held a real estate license to furnish a certification of
- 24 licensure which shall contain a clear record of any disci-
- 25 plinary actions;
- 26 (5) File with the commission an irrevocable written
- 27 designation that appoints the executive director of the
- 28 commission to act as the nonresident licensee's agent, upon
- 29 whom all judicial and other process or legal notices
- 30 directed to the licensee may be served. The designation
- 31 must stipulate and agree that service upon the executive
- of must supulate and agree that service upon the executive
- 32 director is equivalent to personal service upon the licensee.
- 33 A copy of the designation of appointment, certified by the
- 34 seal of the commission, may be admitted into evidence
- 35 with the same force and affect as the original. The execu-
- 36 tive director shall mail a copy of any process or legal
- 37 notice immediately upon receipt, by certified mail, to the
- 38 last known business address of the licensee. No judgment
- 39 by default may be taken in any action or proceeding until
- 40 after thirty days of mailing and then only upon certifica-
- 41 tion by the executive director that a copy of the judicial,
- 41 tion by the executive director that a copy of the judicial,
- 42 other process or legal notice was mailed as required; and
- 43 (6) File with the commission, a bond in the penalty of
- 44 two thousand dollars if the applicant wishes to maintain
- 45 an active license in this state. The bond must be issued by
- 46 a recognized surety and must be for the benefit of and to
- 47 indemnify any person in this state who may have a cause
- 48 of action against the principal.

§30-40-16. Continuing professional education.

- 1 (a) Every licensee shall complete seven hours of continu-
- 2 ing professional education for each fiscal year, with each
- 3 hour equaling fifty minutes of instruction.

- 4 (b) Upon application for the renewal of a real estate
- 5 license on active status, each licensee must furnish satis-
- factory evidence, as established by the commission, that he
- 7 or she has completed seven hours of approved continuing
- 8 professional education during the term of the previous
- license: Provided, That if the commission issues a license
- certificate for a period of more than one fiscal year, each 10
- 11 licensee must furnish satisfactory evidence that he or she
- 12has completed the equivalent of seven hours of continuing
- 13 professional education for each year covered by the term
- 14 of the previous license.
- 15 (c) When a licensee in an inactive status makes applica-
- tion to revert to an active status, he or she must furnish 16
- satisfactory evidence to the commission that he or she has 17
- completed the approved continuing professional education 18
- that would have been required for active status at the time 19
- the license was renewed. 20
- 21 (d) Approval from the commission shall be obtained by
- each provider and instructor and for any course prior to 22
- any advertising or offering of the course. 23
- 24 (e) Real estate-related continuing education courses
- 25provided by or approved by the real estate appraiser
- licensing and certification board, the department of 26
- highways, the West Virginia state bar or other agency of 27
- this state shall be recognized as approved by the commis-28
- 29 sion.
- 30 (f) If approved in advance by the commission, distance
- 31 education courses may be used to satisfy the continuing
- 32education requirement.
- 33 (g) Any licensee holding a license on the first day of July,
- 34 one thousand nine hundred sixty-nine, and continuously
- 35 thereafter, shall be exempt from the continuing profes-
- sional education requirement.

§30-40-17. Place of business; branch offices; display of certificates; custody of license certificates; change of

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address; change of employer by a salesperson or associate broker; license certificates; term of license.

- 1 (a) Every person holding a broker's license under the 2 provisions of this article shall:
- 3 (1) Have and maintain a definite place of business within
- 4 this state, which shall be a room or rooms used for the
- 5 transaction of real estate business and any allied business.
- 6 The definite place of business shall be designated in the
- 7 license certificate issued by the commission and the broker
- 8 may not transact business at any other location, unless
- 9 such other location is properly licensed by the commission
- 10 as a branch office: Provided, That a nonresident broker
- 11 who maintains a definite place of business in his or her
- 12 jurisdiction of residence may not be required to maintain
- 13 an office in this state if said jurisdiction offers the same
- 14 privilege to licensed brokers of this state;
- 15 (2) Conspicuously display his or her broker's license in
 - the main office and the license of each associate broker
- 17 and salesperson employed by the broker who is primarily
- 18 working from the main office;
- 19 (3) Conspicuously display his or her branch office license
- 20 in each branch office and the license of each associate
- 21 broker and salesperson employed by the broker who is
- 22 primarily working from each branch office;
- 23 (4) Make application to the commission before changing
- 24 the address of any office or within ten days after any
- 25 change;

16

- 26 (5) Maintain in his or her custody and control the license
- 27 of each associate broker and salesperson employed by him
- 28 or her; and
- 29 (6) Promptly return the license of any associate broker or
- 30 salesperson whose employment with the broker is termi-
- 31 nated.

- 32 (b) Every person holding an associate broker's or sales-
- 33 person's license under the provisions of this article shall:
- 34 (1) Conduct real estate brokerage activities only under
- 35 the direct supervision and control of his or her employing
- 36 broker, which shall be designated in the license certificate;
- 37 (2) Promptly make application to the commission of any
- 38 change of employing broker: Provided, That it shall be
- 39 unlawful to perform any act contained in this article,
- 40 either directly or indirectly, after employment has been
- 41 terminated until the associate broker or salesperson has
- 42 made application to the commission for a change of
- 43 employing broker and the application is approved.
- 44 (c) The commission shall issue a license certificate which
- 45 shall:
- 46 (1) Be in such form and size as shall be prescribed by the
- 47 commission;
- 48 (2) Be imprinted with the seal of the commission and
- 49 shall contain such other information as the commission
- 50 may prescribe: Provided, That a salesperson's and an
- 51 associate broker's license shall show the name of the
- 52 broker by whom he or she is employed;
- 53 (3) In the case of an active licensee, be mailed or deliv-
- 54 ered to the broker's main office address:
- 55 (4) In the case of an inactive licensee, be held in the
- 56 commission office;
- 57 (5) Be valid for a period that coincides with the fiscal
- 58 year beginning on the first day of July and ending on the
- 59 thirtieth day of June and may be issued for a period
- 60 covering more than one fiscal year at the discretion of the
- 61 commission: Provided, That nothing contained herein
- 62 shall authorize any person to transact real estate business
- 63 prior to becoming properly licensed.

§30-40-18. Trust fund accounts.

- (a) Every person licensed as a broker under the provi-1
- sions of this article who does not immediately deliver all
- funds received, in relation to a real estate transaction, to
- his or her principal or to a neutral escrow depository shall
- maintain one or more trust fund accounts in a recognized
- financial institution and shall place all funds therein:
- Provided. That nothing contained herein shall require a
- broker to maintain a trust fund account if the broker does
- not hold any money in trust for another party.
- 10 (b) Funds that must be deposited into a trust fund
- account include, but are not limited to, earnest money 11
- deposits, security deposits, rental receipts, auction pro-12
- 13 ceeds and money held in escrow at closing.
- (c) Each trust fund account must be established at a 14
- financial institution which is insured against loss by an 15
- agency of the federal government and the amount depos-16
- ited therein cannot exceed the amount that is insured 17
- 18 against loss.
- (d) Each trust fund account must provide for the with-19
- 20 drawal of funds without notice.
- (e) No trust fund account may earn interest or any other 21
- form of income, unless specifically authorized by commis-22
- 23sion rule.
- 24(f) The broker may not commingle his or her own funds
- with trust funds and the account may not be pledged as 25
- collateral for a loan or otherwise utilized by the broker in 26
- a manner that would violate his or her fiduciary obliga-27
- tions in relation to the trust funds: Provided, That nothing
- 28
- contained herein prevents the broker from depositing a 29
- maximum of one hundred dollars of his or her own money 30
- in the trust fund account to maintain a minimum balance 31
- in the account. 32
- 33 (g) No financial institution, in which a trust fund
- account is established under the provisions of this article,

- 35 shall require a minimum balance in excess of the amount
- 36 authorized in subsection (f) of this section.
- 37 (h) The broker shall be the designated trustee of the
- 38 account and shall maintain complete authority and control
- 39 over all aspects of each trust fund account, including
- 40 signature authority: *Provided*. That only one other member
- 41 or officer of a corporation, association or partnership, who
- 42 is licensed under the provisions of this article, may be
- 43 authorized to disburse funds from the account: Provided,
- 44 however. That if disbursements from a trust fund account
- 45 require two signatures, one additional member or officer
- 46 may be a signatory as hereinbefore provided.
- 47 (i) The broker shall, at a minimum, maintain records of
- 48 all funds deposited into the trust fund account, which shall
- 49 clearly indicate the date and from whom the money was
- 50 received, date deposited, date of withdrawal, to whom the
- 51 money belongs, for whose account the money was received
- 52 and other pertinent information concerning the transac-
- 53 tion. All records shall be open to inspection by the com-
- 54 mission or its duly authorized representative at all times
- 55 during regular business hours at the broker's place of
- business. 56
- 57 (j) The broker shall cause the financial institution
- wherein a trust fund account is maintained, to execute a 58
- statement, prepared by the commission, which shall 59
- 60 include, but is not limited to:
- 61 (1) Exact title of the account as registered by the finan-
- 62 cial institution;
- 63 (2) The account number of the trust fund account;
- 64 (3) Identification of all persons authorized to make
- 65 withdrawals from the account:
- 66 (4) Name and address of the financial institution;
- 67 (5) Title of the person executing the statement on behalf
- of the financial institution: 68

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- 69 (6) Date the statement was executed; and
- 70 (7) Certification that the financial institution will notify
- 71 the real estate commission if any checks drawn against the
- 72 account are returned for any cause.
- 73 (k) The broker shall execute a statement authorizing the
- 74 commission, or its duly authorized representative, to make
- 75 periodic inspections of the trust fund account and to
- 76 obtain copies of records from any financial institution
- 77 wherein a trust fund account is maintained. A copy of any
- 78 authorization shall be accepted by any financial institu-
- 79 tion with the same force and effect as the original.
- 80 (1) The broker shall notify the commission, within ten
- 81 days, of the establishment of or any change to a trust fund
- 82 account.

§30-40-19. Refusal, suspension or revocation of a license.

- 1 (a) The commission shall have full power to refuse a
- license for reasonable cause or to revoke, suspend or
- 3 impose any other sanction against a licensee if the licensee:
- 4 (1) Obtains, renews or attempts to obtain or renew a
- 5 license, for himself, herself or another, through the sub-
- 6 mission of any application or other writing that contains
- 7 false, fraudulent or misleading information;
- 8 (2) Makes any substantial misrepresentation;
- 9 (3) Makes any false promises or representations of a
- 10 character likely to influence, persuade or induce a person
- 11 involved in a real estate transaction:
- 12 (4) Pursues a course of misrepresentation or makes false
- 13 promises or representations through agents or any medium
- 14 of advertising or otherwise;
- 15 (5) Uses misleading or false advertising;
- 16 (6) Uses any trade name or insignia of membership in
- 17 any organization in which the licensee is not a member;

- 18 (7) Acts for more than one party in a transaction without
- 19 the knowledge and written consent of all parties for whom
- 20 he or she acts;
- 21 (8) Fails, within a reasonable time, to account for or to
- 22 remit moneys or other assets coming into his or her
- 23 possession, which belong to others;
- 24 (9) Commingles moneys belonging to others with his or
- 25 her own funds:
- 26 (10) Advertises or displays a "for sale", "for rent" or
- 27 other such sign on any property without an agency rela-
- 28 tionship being established or without the owner's knowl-
- 29 edge and written consent;
- 30 (11) Advertises any property on terms other than those
- 31 authorized by the owner;
- 32 (12) Fails to disclose, on the notice of agency relationship
- 33 form promulgated by the commission, whether the licensee
- 34 represents the seller, buyer or both;
- 35 (13) Fails to voluntarily furnish copies of the notice of
- 36 agency relationship, listing contract, sale contract, lease
- 37 contract or any other contract to each party executing the
- 38 same;
- 39 (14) Pays or receives any rebate, profit, compensation,
- 40 commission or other valuable consideration, resulting from
- 41 a real estate transaction, to or from any person other than
- 42 the licensee's principal: *Provided*, That this subsection
- 43 may not be construed to prevent the sharing of compensa-
- 44 tion or other valuable consideration between licensed
- 45 brokers;
- 46 (15) Induces any person to a contract to break the
- 47 contract for the purpose of substituting a new contract
- 48 with a third party;
- 49 (16) Accepts compensation as a salesperson or associate
- 50 broker for any act specified in this article from any person
- 51 other than his or her employer who must be a broker;

- 52 (17) Pays compensation to any person for acts or services
- 53 performed either in violation of this article or the real
- 54 estate licensure laws of any other jurisdiction;
- 55 (18) Pays a compensation to any person knowing that
- 56 they will pay a portion or all of that which is received, in
- 57 a manner that would constitute a violation of this article
- 58 if it were paid directly by a licensee of this state;
- 59 (19) Violates any of the provisions of this article, any
- 60 rule or any order or final decision issued by the commis-
- 61 sion:
- 62 (20) Procures an attorney for any client or customer, or
- 63 solicits legal business for any attorney at law;
- 64 (21) Engages in the unlawful or unauthorized practice of
- 65 law as defined by the supreme court of appeals of West
- 66 Virginia;
- 67 (22) Commits or is a party to any material fraud, misrep-
- 68 resentation, concealment, conspiracy, collusion, trick,
- 69 scheme or other device whereby any other person relies
- 70 upon the word, representation or conduct of the licensee;
- 71 (23) Continues in the capacity of or accepts the services
- 72 of any broker, associate broker or salesperson who is not
- 73 properly licensed;
- 74 (24) Fails to disclose any information within his or her
- 75 knowledge or to produce any document, book or record in
- 76 his or her possession for inspection of and copying by the
- 77 commission or its duly authorized representatives;
- 78 (25) Accepts other than cash or its equivalent as earnest
- 79 money or other deposit unless this fact is disclosed in the
- 80 contract to which the deposit relates;
- 81 (26) Accepts, takes or charges any undisclosed compen-
- 82 sation on expenditures made by or on behalf of the li-
- 83 censee's principal;

- 84 (27) Discriminates against any person involved in a real
- 85 estate transaction which is in violation of any federal or
- 86 state antidiscrimination law, including any fair housing
- 87 law:
- 88 (28) Fails to preserve for five years following its consum-
- 89 mation, records relating to any real estate transaction:
- 90 (29) Fails to maintain adequate records on the broker's
- 91 "trust fund account":
- 92 (30) In the case of a broker, fails to adequately supervise
- 93 all associate brokers and salespersons employed by him or
- 94 her:
- 95 (31) Breaches a fiduciary duty owed by a licensee to his
- 96 or her principal in a real estate transaction;
- 97 (32) Directs any party to a real estate transaction in
- 98 which the licensee is involved, to any lending institution
- 99 for financing with the expectation of receiving a financial
- 100 incentive, rebate or other compensation, without first
- 101 obtaining from his or her principal the signed acknowledg-
- ment of and consent to the receipt of the financial incen-
- 103 tive, rebate or other compensation;
- 104 (33) Represents to any lending institution, or other
- interested party either verbally or through the preparation
- 106 of false documents, an amount in excess of the true and
- actual sale price of the real estate or terms differing from
- 108 those actually agreed upon;
- 109 (34) Fails to disclose to an owner the licensee's true
- position if he or she directly or indirectly through a third
- 111 party, purchases for himself or herself or acquires or
- intends to acquire any interest in or any option to pur-
- 113 chase the property;
- 114 (35) Lends a broker's license to any person, including a
- salesperson, or permits a salesperson to operate as a
- 116 broker;

- 117 (36) Has been convicted in a court of competent jurisdic-
- 118 tion in this or any other jurisdiction of forgery, embezzle-
- 119 ment, obtaining money under false pretense, bribery,
- 120 larceny, extortion, conspiracy to defraud, any other similar
- 121 offense, a crime involving moral turpitude, or a felony;
- 122 (37) Engages in any act or conduct which constitutes or
- 123 demonstrates bad faith, incompetency or untrustworthi-
- ness, or dishonest, fraudulent or improper dealing;
- 125 (38) Induces any person to alter, modify or change
- 126 another licensee's fee or commission for brokerage ser-
- vices, without that licensee's prior written consent;
- 128 (39) Negotiates a real estate transaction directly with
- 129 any person that is represented exclusively by another
- broker, unless the conduct is specifically authorized by the
- 131 other broker;
- 132 (40) Obtains, negotiates or attempts to obtain or negoti-
- 133 ate a contract whereby the broker is entitled to a commis-
- 134 sion only to the extent that the sales price exceeds a given
- 135 amount, commonly referred to as a net listing;
- 136 (41) Fails or refuses, on demand, to furnish copies of a
- 137 document to a person whose signature is affixed to the
- 138 document;
- 139 (42) In the case of an associate broker or salesperson,
- 140 represents or attempts to represent a broker other than his
- 141 or her employing broker;
- 142 (43) Fails to reduce a bona fide offer to writing;
- 143 (44) Guarantees, or authorizes or permits another
- licensee to guarantee, future profits which may result from
- 145 a real estate transaction;
- 146 (45) Is disciplined by another jurisdiction if at least one
- of the grounds for that discipline is the same as or equiva-
- 148 lent to one of the grounds for discipline in this article; or

- (46) Engages in any other act or omission in violation of
- 150 professional conduct requirements of licensees established
- 151 by legislative rule of the commission.
- 152 (b) The provisions of this section shall be liberally
- 153 construed in order to carry out the objectives and purposes
- 154 of this article.
- 155 (c) As used in this section:
- 156 (1) The words "convicted in a court of competent juris-
- 157 diction" mean a plea of guilty or nolo contendere entered
- 158 by a person or a verdict of guilt returned against a person
- 159 at the conclusion of a trial;
- 160 (2) A certified copy of a conviction order entered in a
- 161 court is sufficient evidence to demonstrate a person has
- been convicted in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (d) Every person licensed by the commission has an
- affirmative duty to report, in a timely manner, any known
- or observed violation of this article or the rules, orders or
- 166 final decisions of the commission.
- 167 (e) The revocation of a broker's license shall automati-
- 168 cally suspend the license of every associate broker and
- 169 salesperson employed by the broker: *Provided*, That the
- 170 commission shall issue a replacement license for any
- 171 licensee so affected to a new employing broker, without
- 172 charge, if a proper application is submitted to the commis-
- 173 sion during the same license term.
- 174 (f) A licensee whose license has been revoked shall be
- ineligible to apply for a new license until after the expira-
- 176 tion of two years from the date of revocation.

§30-40-20. Complaints; investigation.

- 1 (a) The commission may upon its own motion and shall
- 2 upon the verified complaint in writing of any person filing
- 3 a complaint setting forth a cause of action under this
- 4 article or the rules promulgated thereunder, ascertain the

- 5 facts and if warranted hold a hearing for the suspension or
- 6 revocation of a license, or the imposition of sanctions
- 7 against a licensee.
- 8 (b) The commission shall consider complaints which are
- 9 submitted in writing and set forth the details of the
- 10 transaction:
- 11 (c) Upon initiation or receipt of the complaint, the
- 12 commission shall provide a copy of the complaint to the
- 13 licensee for his or her response to the allegations contained
- 14 in the complaint. The accused party shall file an answer
- 15 within twenty days of the date of service. Failure of the
- 16 licensee to file a timely response may be considered an
- 17 admission of the allegations in the compliant: *Provided*,
- 18 That nothing contained herein shall prohibit the accused
- 19 party from obtaining an extension of time to file a re-
- 20 sponse, if the commission, its executive director or other
- 21 authorized representative permits the extension.
- 22 (d) The commission may cause an investigation to be
- 23 made into the facts and circumstances giving rise to the
- 24 complaint and any person licensed by the commission has
- 25 an affirmative duty to assist the commission, or its autho-
- 26 rized representative, in the conduct of its investigation.
- 27 (e) After receiving the licensee's response and reviewing
- 28 any information obtained through investigation, the
- 29 commission shall determine if probable cause exists that
- 30 the licensee has violated any provision of this article or the
- 31 rules.
- 32 (f) If a determination that probable cause exists for
- 33 disciplinary action, the commission may hold a hearing in
- 34 compliance with section twenty-one of this article or may
- 35 dispose of the matter informally through a consent agree-
- 36 ment or otherwise.

§30-40-21. Hearings; judicial review; cost of proceedings.

- (a) Hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the
- 2 provisions of article five, chapter twenty-nine-a of this
- 3 code and the commission's rules.

1

- 4 (b) Hearings shall be held at a time and place determined
- 5 by the commission, but in no event less than thirty days
- 6 after the notice of hearing is given.
- 7 (c) Any member has the authority to administer oaths
- 8 and to examine any person under oath.
- 9 (d) If, after hearing, the commission determines the
- 10 licensee has violated any provision of this article, or the
- 11 commission's rules, a formal decision shall be prepared
- 12 which contains findings of fact, conclusions of law and
- 13 specifically lists the disciplinary actions imposed.
- 14 (e) The commission may elect to have an administrative
- 15 law judge or hearing examiner conduct the hearing. If the
- 16 commission makes this election, the administrative law
- 17 judge or hearing examiner, at the conclusion of a hearing,
- 18 shall prepare a proposed order which shall contain find-
- 19 ings of fact and conclusions of law. The commission may
- 20 request that disciplinary actions imposed be a part of the
- 21 proposed order, or may reserve this obligation for its
- 22 consideration. The commission may accept, reject or
- 23 modify the decision of the administrative law judge or
- 24 hearing examiner.
- 25 (f) Any person adversely affected by any decision or final
- 26 order made by the commission, after a hearing, is entitled
- 27 to judicial review by the circuit court of the county where
- 28 the hearing was held.
- 29 (g) In addition to any other sanction imposed, the
- 30 commission may require a licensee to pay the costs of the
- 31 proceeding.

§30-40-22. Penalties for violations.

- 1 (a) Any person violating a provision of this article or the
- 2 commission's rules is guilty of a misdemeanor. Any person

- 3 convicted of a first violation shall be fined not less than
- 4 one thousand dollars nor more than two thousand dollars,
- 5 or confined in the county or regional jail not more than
- 6 ninety days, or both fined and imprisoned;
- 7 (b) Any person convicted of a second or subsequent
- 8 violation shall be fined not less than two thousand dollars
- 9 nor more than five thousand dollars, or confined in the
- 10 county or regional jail for a term not to exceed one year, or
- 11 both fined and imprisoned;
- 12 (c) Any corporation, association or partnership convicted
- of a first violation of this article or the commission's rules,
- 14 shall be fined not less than two thousand dollars nor more
- 15 than five thousand dollars;
- 16 (d) Any corporation, association or partnership convicted
- 17 of a second or subsequent violation, shall be fined not less
- 18 than five thousand dollars nor more than ten thousand
- 19 dollars:
- 20 (e) Any officer, member, employee or agent of a corpora-
- 21 tion, association or partnership, shall be subject to the
- 22 penalties herein prescribed for individuals;
- 23 (f) Each and every day a violation of this article contin-
- 24 ues shall constitute a separate offense;
- 25 (g) In addition to the penalties herein provided, if any
- 26 person receives compensation for acts or services per-
- 27 formed in violation of this article, he or she shall also be
- 28 subject to a penalty of not less than the value of the
- 29 compensation received nor more than three times the value
- 30 of the compensation received, as may be determined by a
- 31 court of competent jurisdiction. Any penalty may be
- 32 recovered by a person aggrieved as a result of a violation
- 33 of this article.

§30-40-23. Single act evidence of practice.

- 1 One act by any person in consideration of receiving
- 2 compensation, or with the expectation or intention of

- 3 receiving such compensation, or upon the promise of
- 4 receiving compensation for any act or service contained in
- 5 this article shall constitute and consider the person a
- 6 broker, associate broker or salesperson subject to the
- 7 provisions of this article.

§30-40-24. Injunctions; criminal proceedings.

- 1 (a) Whenever the commission or other interested person
- 2 believes that any person has engaged, is engaging or is
- 3 about to engage in any act that constitutes a violation of
- 4 this article, the commission or other interested person may
- 5 make application to any court of competent jurisdiction
- for an order enjoining the acts or services. Upon a show-
- 7 ing that the person has engaged in or is about to engage in
- 8 any act which violates this article, an injunction, restrain-
- 9 ing order or another appropriate order may be granted by
- 10 the court without bond.
- 11 (b) Whenever the commission, its executive director or
- 12 its authorized representative has reason to believe that any
- 13 person has knowingly violated a provision of this article,
- 14 the commission or its authorized representative may bring
- 15 its information to the prosecuting attorney in the county
- 16 where the violation has occurred who shall cause appro-
- 17 priate criminal proceedings to be brought.
- 18 (c) Whenever any other interested person has reason to
- 19 believe that any person has knowingly violated a provision
- 20 of this article, such person may bring its information to the
- 21 attention of the appropriate law-enforcement officer who
- 22 may cause an investigation to be made in order for appro-
- 23 priate criminal proceedings to be brought.

§30-40-25. Collection of compensation.

- 1 No person may bring or maintain any action in any court
- 2 of this state for the recovery of compensation for the
- 3 performance of any act or service for which a broker's
- 4 license is required, without alleging and proving that he or
- 5 she was the holder of a valid broker's license at all times

- during the performance or rendering of any act or service:
- 7 Provided, That an associate broker or salesperson shall
- 8 have the right to institute suit in his or her own name for
- 9 the recovery of compensation from his or her employing
- 10 broker for acts or services performed while in the employ
- 11 of said employing broker.

§30-40-26. Duties of licensees.

- 1 Every broker, associate broker and salesperson owes
- 2 certain inherent duties to the consumer which are required
- 3 by virtue of the commission granting a license under this
- 4 article. The duties include, but are not limited to:
- 5 (a) At the time of securing any contract whereby the
- 6 broker is obligated to represent a principal to a real estate
- 7 transaction, every licensee shall supply a true legible copy
- 8 of the contract to each person signing the contract.
- 9 (b) Any contract in which a broker is obligated to
- 10 represent a principal to a real estate transaction shall
- 11 contain a definite expiration date, and no provision may
- 12 be included in any contract whereby the principal is
- 13 required to notify the broker of his or her intention to
- 14 cancel the contract after the definite expiration date.
- 15 (c) No provision may be inserted in any contract for
- 16 representation that would obligate the person signing the
- 17 contract to pay a fee, commission or other valuable
- 18 consideration to the broker, after the contract's expiration
- 19 date, if the person subsequently enters into a contract for
- 20 representation with a different broker.
- 21 (d) Every licensee shall disclose in writing, on the notice
- 22 of agency relationship form promulgated by the commis-
- 23 sion, whether the licensee represents the seller, the buyer
- 24 or both. The disclosure shall be made prior to any person
- 25 signing any contract for representation by a licensee or a
- 26 contract for the sale or purchase of real estate.
- 27 (e) Every licensee shall promptly deliver to his or her
- 28 principal, every written offer received.

- 29 (f) Every licensee shall make certain that all the terms
- 30 and conditions of a real estate transaction are contained in
- 31 any contract prepared by the licensee.
- 32 (g) At the time of securing the signature of any party to
- 33 a contract, the licensee shall deliver a true copy of the
- 34 contract to the person whose signature was obtained.
- 35 (h) Upon the final acceptance or ratification of any
- 36 contract, the licensee shall promptly deliver a true copy to
- 37 each party that has signed the contract.

§30-40-27. Duration of existing licenses.

- 1 Any valid license issued by the commission to a broker,
- 2 associate broker or salesperson pursuant to the provisions
- 3 of article twelve, chapter forty-seven of this code prior to
- 4 the effective date of this article shall continue to be valid
- 5 until the thirtieth day of June, two thousand two.

§30-40-28. Continuation of commission.

- 1 The real estate commission shall continue to exist until
- 2 the first day of July, two thousand four, pursuant to the
- 3 provisions of article ten, chapter four of this code, unless
- 4 sooner terminated, continued or reestablished pursuant to
- 5 the provisions of that article.

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The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled. Chairman Senate Committee	
Chairman House Committee	
Originated in the Senate.	
In effect from passage. A Clerk of the Senate	
Clerk of the House of Delegates Oul Ray Joseph President of the Senate	
Speaker House of Delegates	
The within approved this the 18 mg. 2002. Governor	

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PRESENTED TO THE

GOVE/INOR
Date 3/12/02
Time 10:45 am