

- 1 HB492
- 2 FQGL5CD-1
- 3 By Representatives Hollis, Wood (D), Bracy
- 4 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
- 5 First Read: 30-Apr-24



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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, 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 interest in a contract for the purchase and sale of



29	residential	real	estate

This bill would further provide that the Alabama Real Estate Commission may impose penalties for certain conduct by licensees, including, but not limited to, the failure to specify the expiration date of a residential listing agreement or for creating an encumbrance on the property that is the subject of a residential listing agreement by recording the listing agreement with a probate officer.

This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

42 A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

44 AN ACT

Relating to licensed real estate professionals and companies; to amend Sections 34-27-2, 34-27-3, 34-27-6, 34-27-8, 34-27-32, 34-27-33, 34-27-34, 34-27-35, 34-27-36, 34-27-81, 34-27-82, 34-27-83, 34-27-84, 34-27-85, and 34-27-86, Code of Alabama 1975; to provide certain requirements related to training, qualifications, and licensure of real estate companies, brokers, and salespersons; to provide restrictions on licensed out-of-state co-broker transactions in the state; to impose penalties for certain licensee conduct including certain conduct related to the sale

or assignment of an equitable interest in a residential



- 57 purchase and sale agreement and for the failure to provide a
- 58 specified expiration date of a residential listing agreement;
- and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the
- 60 existing code language to current style.
- 61 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
- 62 Section 1. Sections 34-27-2 and 34-27-3, Code of
- Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:
- 64 "\$34-27-2
- 65 (a) For purposes of Articles 1 and 2 of this chapter,
- the following terms—shall have the respective following
- 67 meanings ascribed by this section:
- 68 (1) ASSOCIATE BROKER. Any broker other than a
- 69 qualifying broker.
- 70 (2) BROKER. Any person licensed as a real estate broker
- 71 under Articles 1 and 2 of this chapter.
- 72 (3) COMMISSION. The Alabama Real Estate Commission,
- 73 except where the context requires that it means the fee paid
- 74 to a broker or salesperson.
- 75 (4) COMMISSIONER. A member of the commission.
- 76 (5) COMPANY. Any sole proprietorship, corporation,
- 77 partnership, branch office, or lawfully constituted business
- 78 organization as the Legislature may provide for from time to
- 79 $\frac{\text{time}}{\text{time}}$, which is licensed as a company under Articles 1 and 2 $\frac{\text{of}}{\text{time}}$
- 80 this chapter.
- 81 (6) ENGAGE. Contractual relationships between a
- 92 qualifying broker and an associate broker or salesperson
- 83 licensed under him or her whether the relationship is
- 84 employer-employee, independent contractor, or otherwise.

85	(7) EQUITABLE INTEREST IN A CONTRACT or EQUITABLE
86	INTEREST. Any interests or rights in a contract or agreement
87	to purchase residential real estate held by a party to the
88	contract or agreement.
89	(7) (8) INACTIVE LICENSE. A license which that is being
90	held by the commission office by law, order of the commission,
91	at the request of the licensee, or which is renewable but is
92	not currently valid because of failure to renew.
93	$\frac{(8)}{(9)}$ LICENSEE. Any broker, salesperson, or company.
94	$\frac{(9)}{(10)}$ LICENSE PERIOD. That period of time beginning
95	on October 1 of a year designated by the commission to be the
96	first year of a license period and ending on midnight
97	September 30 of the year designated by the commission as the
98	final year of that license period.
99	(11) LISTING AGREEMENT. An agreement between a company
100	and an owner by which the company agrees to assist the owner
101	in the sale of the owner's real property in exchange for a
102	fee. The definition includes agreements giving the company the
103	right to list or market the owner's real property upon the
104	owner's future decision to sell the property.
105	(12) OWNER. A person or entity legally deeded real
106	<pre>property.</pre>
107	(10) (13) PERSON. A natural person.
108	(11) (14) PLACE OF BUSINESS.
109	a. A licensed broker living in a rural area of this
110	state who operates from his or her home, provided that he or
111	she sets up and maintains an office for the conduct of the
112	roal ostato business which shall not be used for living



113	purposes or occupancy other than the conduct of the real
114	estate business. The office shall be used by the broker only
115	and not as a place of business from which any additional
116	licensee operates under his or her license. The office shall
117	have a separate business telephone, separate entrance, and be

118 properly identified as a real estate office.

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- 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.
- 130 (15) PRINCIPAL BROKER. As used in other states, having
 131 the same meaning as "qualifying broker" in this state.
- 132 (12) (16) QUALIFYING BROKER. A broker under whom a sole 133 proprietorship, corporation, partnership, branch office, or 134 lawfully constituted business organization as the Legislature 135 may from time to time provide is licensed, or a broker 136 licensed as a company to do business as a sole proprietorship 137 who is responsible for supervising the acts of the company or 138 proprietorship and all real estate licensees licensed therewith. 139
- 140 $\frac{(13)}{(17)}$ (17) RECOVERY FUND. The Alabama Real Estate



- 141 Recovery Fund.
- 142 (18) RESIDENTIAL. Pertaining to real property located
- in the state which is used primarily as a residence.
- 144 $\frac{(14)}{(19)}$ SALESPERSON. Any person licensed as a real
- 145 estate salesperson under Articles 1 and 2 of this chapter.
- 146 (b) The licensing requirements of Articles 1 and $2 \frac{\text{of}}{\text{of}}$
- 147 this chapter shall not apply to any of the following persons
- 148 and transactions:
- 149 (1) Any owner in the managing of, or in consummating a
- real estate transaction involving, his or her own real estate
- or the real estate of his or her spouse or child or parent.
- 152 (2) An attorney-at-law performing his or her duties as
- 153 an attorney-at-law.
- 154 (3) Persons acting without compensation and in good
- faith under a duly executed power of attorney authorizing the
- 156 consummation of a real estate transaction.
- 157 (4) Persons or a state or federally chartered financial
- 158 institution acting as a receiver, trustee, administrator,
- 159 executor, or guardian; or acting under a court order or under
- authority of a trust instrument or will.
- 161 (5) Public officers performing their official duties.
- 162 (6) Persons performing general clerical or
- administrative duties for a broker so long as the person does
- 164 not physically show listed property.
- 165 (7) Persons acting as the manager for an apartment
- 166 building or complex. However, this This exception shall not
- 167 apply to a person acting as an on-site manager of a
- 168 condominium building or complex.

169	(8) Persons licensed as time-share sellers under
170	Article 3 of this chapter performing an act consistent with
171	that article.
172	(9) Transactions involving the sale, lease, or transfer
173	of cemetery lots."
174	" §34-27-3
175	(a) A licensed principal broker of another state may
176	act as co-broker, whether in sales or lease transactions, with
177	a licensed <u>qualifying</u> broker of this state by executing a
178	written agreement specifying each parcel of property covered
179	by the agreement if the state in which the nonresident broker
180	is licensed offers the same privileges to licensees of this
181	<pre>state. Co-brokerage agreements are limited to three</pre>
182	transactions per calendar year, per licensed out-of-state
183	principal broker. Transactions may include multiple properties
184	if the properties are part of the same portfolio. No licensed
185	out-of-state principal broker shall use co-brokerage
186	agreements to engage in transactions totaling more than fifty
187	million dollars (\$50,000,000) in any one calendar year.
188	(b) Whenever an Alabama <u>qualifying</u> broker enters into a
189	co-brokerage agreement with a <pre>nonresident</pre> licensed out-of-state
190	<pre>principal broker to perform in Alabama any of the acts</pre>
191	described in Section 34-27-30, the Alabama <u>qualifying</u> broker
192	shall file within 10 days with the commission a copy of each
193	<pre>such written agreement not more than 10 days after the</pre>
194	agreement is signed by all parties. By signing the agreement,

the nonresidentlicensed out-of-state principal broker agrees

to abide by Alabama law $_{r}$ and the rules and regulations of the

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197	commission; and further agrees that civil actions may be
198	commenced against him or her in any court of competent
199	jurisdiction in any county of this state in which a claim may
200	arise.
201	(c) All co-brokerage agreements with licensed
202	out-of-state co-brokers shall include all of the following
203	provisions:
204	(1) The Alabama broker shall require a listing or join
205	listing of the property involved.
206	(2) The agreement shall specify all material terms,
207	including, but not limited to, the financial terms.
208	(3) The showing of property located in Alabama and any
209	negotiations pertaining to it shall be supervised by the
210	Alabama broker.
211	(4) The name of the Alabama broker shall appear in all
212	advertising of real property located in the state.
213	(5) The Alabama broker shall be liable for all acts of
214	the licensed out-of-state broker, as well as his or her own
215	acts, arising from the execution of the co-brokerage
216	agreement.
217	(6) The Alabama broker shall verify that the licensed
218	out-of-state broker is a licensed principal broker in another
219	state.
220	(7) Any earnest money deposited pursuant to the
221	agreement must be held in escrow by the Alabama broker unless
222	both the buyer and the seller agree in writing to relieve the
223	Alabama broker of this responsibility."

Section 2. Section 34-27-6, Code of Alabama 1975, is



225	amended to read as follows:
226	" §34-27-6
227	(a) For purposes of this section and rules adopted
228	pursuant thereto, the following terms shall have the following
229	meanings:
230	(1) ACCREDITED SCHOOL. Any nonprofit college or
231	university meeting the standards of an accrediting agency
232	recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and offering
233	any commission-approved course.
234	$\frac{(1)}{(2)}$ ADMINISTRATOR. A person designated by a
235	principal school or branch school and approved by the
236	commission to be the person responsible to the commission for
237	all acts governed by this chapter and applicable rules
238	which that govern the operation of schools.
239	$\frac{(2)}{(3)}$ APPROVED COURSE. Any course of instruction
240	approved by the commission that satisfies commission
241	requirements for prelicense education, postlicense education,
242	or continuing education.
243	(3) APPROVED SCHOOL. Any proprietary educational
244	institution offering only commission approved continuing
245	education courses and any accredited college or university
246	that offers any commission approved course.
247	$\frac{(4)}{(4)}$ BRANCH SCHOOL. Any school under the ownership of
248	a principal school which offers commission approved courses at
249	a permanent location.
250	(5) CE-ONLY SCHOOL. Any private educational institution
251	or organization offering only commission approved continuing

252 <u>education courses.</u>



	(6) CONTINUING EDUCATION. Any professional course
r	equired to renew or activate a license which shall be a
m	inimum of one clock-hour upon approval of the commission.
	(7) DISTANCE EDUCATION. Courses where instruction does
n	ot take place in a traditional classroom setting but rather
W	here teacher and student are apart by distance or by time and
i	nstruction takes place through other media.
	(5) INSTRUCTIONAL SITE. Any physical place where
C	ommission approved instruction is conducted apart from the
p	rincipal school or branch school.
	$\frac{(6)}{(8)}$ INSTRUCTOR. A person approved by the commission
t	o teach approved courses in the classroom or by distance
е	ducation.
	(9) PRELICENSE INSTRUCTOR. An instructor of commission
a	pproved prelicense courses offered to individuals preparing
t	o apply for real estate licensure as a salesperson or a
<u>b</u>	roker and other courses offered at a prelicense school.
	(7) LICENSED (10) PRELICENSE SCHOOL. Any proprietary
S	chool that is licensed by the commission and bonded pursuant
t	o this section, including any for-profit college, that offers
С	ommission approved prelicense courses or postlicense courses,
0	r both, only after being licensed and bonded by the
C	ommission. Prelicense schools may also offer continuing
<u>e</u>	ducation courses.
	(8) (11) PRINCIPAL SCHOOL. Any institution or
0	rganization which that is the primary school and not a branch
s	chool that is approved and is licensed by the commission.
	(9) PROPRIETARY SCHOOL. Any school that is not an

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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.

- (b) The commission shall approve and regulate schools that offer commission approved prelicense, postlicense, and continuing education courses. The commission shall be the board, commission, or agency withhave 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 and to approve CE-only schools for the limited purpose of their offerings of commission approved continuing education courses or postlicense courses, or both that offer commission approved prelicense and continuing education courses.
- any prelicense principal school 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 school's collection of tuition or fees, or both, from students, but failing to provide the complete instruction for which such the tuition or fees were



309 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.

- (d) (1) The commission shall charge a license fee for 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 an approval 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 approval period. The renewal fee for each CE-only school shall be fifty dollars (\$50) for each year of any approval period.



337 (e) The commission shall require all schools to name
338 and have approved by the commission a schoolan administrator
339 who shall be responsible to the commission for all actions of
340 his or her respective school.

- (f) Principal schools The signage for each principal school and branch school shall be clearly identified by signage indicate the name of the school in a manner as appropriate for the its 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 shall set out for each branch school shall also indicate the name of the branch school and the name of the principal school under which it operates.
- 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 count violation.
- (h) The commission shall approve, sponsor, contract for or conduct, or assist in sponsoring or conducting, real estate courses for licensees, may charge fees, and may incur and pay the necessary related expenses in connection therewith.
- (i) (1) The commission shall approve and regulate instructors who teach the commission approved prelicense, postlicense, and continuing education courses. The commission

365	shall establish and collect fees as determined necessary $ au$ in
366	an amount not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50) per instructor
367	annually, to approved instructors who teach commission
368	approved courses.
369	(2) The commission shall establish a continuing
370	education requirement for all active prelicense instructors.
371	(j)(1) An instructor, administrator, or school may
372	request that the commission issue or change its education
373	approval or license to inactive status. An instructor,
374	administrator, or school whose status is inactive shall be
375	prohibited from engaging in any of the following:
376	a. Teaching commission approved courses.
377	b. Offering commission approved courses.
378	c. Performing any duties of an administrator,
379	including, but not limited to, registering students,
380	advertising the school, reporting course schedules to the
381	commission, or entering student credit for completed courses.
382	(2) The inactive status of an instructor,
383	administrator, or school must be renewed in the same manner as
384	an active status for an instructor, administrator, or school,
385	as provided in this section.
386	(k)(1) A prelicense instructor whose status is inactive
387	for three years or less and who renews his or her approval
388	while inactive may activate his or her approval for the first
389	time during any approval period by meeting all of the
390	<pre>following requirements:</pre>
391	a. Completing any continuing education requirement for
392	instructors that remains incomplete from the previous approval



<u>r</u>	period.
	b. Paying an activation fee.
	(2) A prelicense instructor whose approval remains
i	nactive for longer than three years must take required
t	raining before activating his or her approval. Once his or
ŀ.	er approval is on active status, a prelicense instructor will
k	e responsible for completing the then current continuing
\in	ducation coursework requirements to renew the active approval
f	or the next approval period.
	(3) In addition to any other requirements provided in
t	his section, any instructor, administrator, or school that is
S	eeking to change its status from inactive to active shall be
r	equired to pay an activation fee in the amount of fifty
Ċ	dollars (\$50) per approval or license.
	(1) An active prelicense instructor with an inactive
k	roker license must remain current with continuing education
r	equirements for active brokers as well as the continuing
€	ducation requirements for active prelicense instructors.
	(m) (1) All education licenses and approvals shall
Ξ	expire at midnight on September 30 of the final year of each
ĉ	pproval period. Each prelicense instructor must complete
r	equired continuing education courses and provide proof of
C	completion to the commission on or before September 30 of the
f	inal year of each approval period.
	(2) The continuing education coursework requirement

(2) The continuing education coursework requirement shall apply to each two-year education renewal. Coursework hours completed in excess of the requirement shall not be applicable to any subsequent renewal.

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421	(3) An inactive status of a prelicense instructor shall
422	be renewed in the same manner as for an active prelicense
423	instructor except that continuing education coursework shall
424	not be required while the status remains inactive.
425	(n) Any instructor, administrator, or school that fails
426	to renew its active status approval or license by the
427	September 30 deadline shall incur a late fee in the amount of
428	two hundred dollars (\$200) per approval or license.
429	(o) (1) An instructor, administrator, or school may
430	renew any expired approval or license during the 12-month
431	period following the September 30 renewal deadline, provided
432	that an instructor, administrator, or school shall not engage
433	in any activity for which a license or approval is required
434	until the commission approves the renewal.
435	(2) Except as provided in subdivision (3), after the
436	last day of the twelfth month following the September 30
437	renewal deadline, an expired license or approval shall lapse
438	and shall be subject to all requirements applicable to an
439	original license or approval.
440	(3) The commission may allow renewal of an expired
441	license or approval upon a determination of hardship, provided
442	that all required fees are paid.
443	(j) The (p) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2),
444	the commission shall approve courses and establish and collect
445	fees as determined deemed necessary, in an amount not to exceed
446	one hundred dollars (\$100) per application, to review each
447	course.
448	(2) a. The commission may certify and approve



synchronous distance education courses and establish and
collect fees deemed necessary, in an amount not to exceed four
hundred dollars (\$400) per application, to review each course.
b. The commission shall consider synchronous distance
education courses for certification based on the commission's
analysis of all of the following aspects:
1. The course or program mission statement.
2. Course design.
3. Interactivity.
4. Delivery.
5. Equipment.
6. The learning environment.
7. Student support services.
8. Educational effectiveness and assessment of student
learning outcomes.
9. Commitment to ongoing support of the course.
$\frac{(k)}{(q)}$ The commission shall establish one-year or
multi-year approval or license periods for schools,
instructors, administrators, and courses. Approval and license
periods shall run from October 1 of the first year of the
approval or license period through September 30 of the final
year of the approval <u>or license</u> period.
(1) The commission shall promulgate rules and
regulations as necessary to accomplish the purpose of this
section in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act."
Section 3. Section 34-27-8, Code of Alabama 1975, is
amended to read as follows:

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"§34-27-8

477	(a)—A majority of the commission members shall
478	constitute a quorum for the conduct of commission business.
179	The commission may adopt and enforce all rules and regulations
480	pursuant to the state administrative procedure statutes
481	Alabama Administrative Procedure Act necessary for the
482	administration of this chapter, and to otherwise do all things
483	necessary and convenient for effecting this chapter.
484	(b) In addition to the powers granted in this section,
485	the commission may adopt and enforce rules and regulations
486	governing the requirements of agency disclosure by licensed
487	brokers and salespersons.
488	(c) Each offer to purchase prepared after August 1,
489	1998, shall have prominently displayed the following AGENCY
490	DISCLOSURE clause which shall be completed and initialed as
491	indicated:
192	The listing company is:
493	(Two blocks may be checked)
494	An agent of the seller.
495	An agent of the buyer.
496	An agent of both the seller and buyer and is
497	acting as a limited consensual dual agent.
498	Assisting the buyer seller as a
499	transaction broker.
500	The selling 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 seller and buyer and is



505 acting as a limited consensual dual agent.

506 Assisting the buyer seller as a

507 transaction broker."

Section 4. Section 34-27-32, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§34-27-32

- (a) A license for a broker or a salesperson shall be registered to a specific real estate office and shall be issued only to, and held only by, a person who meets all of the following requirements:
- 515 (1) Is trustworthy and competent to transact the 516 business of a broker or salesperson in a manner that 517 safeguards the interest of the public.
 - (2) Is a person whose application for real estate licensure has not been rejected in any state on any grounds other than failure to pass a written examination within the two years prior to the application for real estate licensure with Alabama. If the applicant's rejection for real estate 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 commission.
 - (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 commissionerscommission.

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

"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

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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.

571 Legal Signature of Applicant"

(b) 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)(c)(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.

<u>b.</u> 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) (d) 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.

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- 618 (2) Proof that he or she is a high school graduate or 619 the equivalent.
- 620 (3) Proof that he or she has <u>successfully</u> completed a
 621 course in real estate approved by the commission, which shall
 622 be a minimum of 60 clock hours.
 - (4) Any other information requested by the commission.
 - (d) (e) 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.
- (3) Any other information required by the commission.
- 637 (e) (f) An application for a company license or branch
 638 office license shall be made by a qualifying broker on a form
 639 prescribed by the commission. The qualifying broker shall be
 640 an officer, partner, or employee of the company.
- 641 (f) (g) An applicant for a company or broker license shall maintain a place of business.
- 643 (g) (h) If the applicant for a company or broker license 644 maintains more than one place of business in the state, he or



645	she shall have a company or branch office license for each
646	separate <pre>location company</pre> or branch office. Every application
647	shall state the location of the company or branch office and
648	the name of its qualifying broker. Each company or branch
649	office shall be under the direction and supervision of a
650	qualifying broker licensed at that address. No person may
651	serve as qualifying broker at more than one location. The
652	qualifying broker for the branch office and the qualifying
653	broker for the company shall share equal responsibility for
654	the real estate activities of all licensees assigned to the
655	branch office or company.
656	(h)(i)(1) No person shall be a qualifying broker for
657	more than one company or for a company and on his or her own
658	behalf unless he or she meets all of the following
659	requirements:
660	$\frac{(1)}{a}$ All companies for which he or she is and proposes
661	to be the qualifying broker consent in writing.
662	(2) h He or she files a conv of the written consent

- 662 (2)b. He or she files a copy of the written consent with the commission.
- c. All companies for which he or she is and proposes to

 be the qualifying broker share the same company address (3) He

 or she will be doing business from the same location.
- 667 (2) A person licensed under a qualifying broker may be engaged by one or more companies with the same qualifying broker.
- (3) A person may utilize any office of a company under which he or she is licensed.
- (i) (j) A company license shall become invalid on the

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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 broker temporary 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 after two weeks prior electronic notice.

(j) (k) 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 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



- 701 applicant shall assume the cost of the criminal history check.
- 702 The criminal history must shall be current to the issuance of
- 703 the license.
- 704 $\frac{(k)}{(l)}$ The commission may charge a fee of ten dollars
- 705 (\$10) for furnishing any person a copy of a license,
- 706 certificate, or other official record of the commissioner."
- 707 Section 5. Section 34-27-32, Code of Alabama 1975, is
- 708 amended to read as follows:
- 709 "\$34-27-32
- 710 (a) A license for a broker or a salesperson shall be
- 711 registered to a specific real estate office and shall be
- 712 issued only to, and held only by, a person who meets all of
- 713 the following requirements:
- 714 (1) Is trustworthy and competent to transact the
- 715 business of a broker or salesperson in a manner that
- 716 safeguards the interest of the public.
- 717 (2) Is a person whose application for real estate
- 718 licensure has not been rejected in any state on any grounds
- 719 other than failure to pass a written examination within the
- 720 two years prior to the application for real estate licensure
- 721 with Alabama. If the applicant's rejection for real estate
- 722 licensure in any state is more than two years from the date of
- 723 application for licensure with Alabama, then the applicant may
- 724 not be issued an Alabama real estate license without the
- 725 approval of the commissionerscommission.
- 726 (3) Is a person whose real estate license has not been
- 727 revoked in any state within the two years prior to application
- 728 for real estate licensure with Alabama. If the applicant's



- 729 real estate licensure revocation in any state, including
- 730 Alabama, is more than two years from the date of application
- 731 for licensure with Alabama then the applicant may not be
- issued an Alabama real estate license without the approval of
- 733 the commissionerscommission.
- 734 (4) Is at least 19 years oldof age.
- 735 (5) Is a citizen of the United States or, if not a
- 736 citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present
- 737 in the United States with appropriate documentation from the
- 738 federal government, or is an alien with permanent resident
- 739 status.
- 740 (6) Is a person who, if a nonresident, agrees to sign
- 741 an affidavit stating the following and in the following form:
- 742 "I, as a nonresident applicant for a real estate
- 743 license and as a licensee, agree that the Alabama Real Estate
- 744 Commission shall have jurisdiction over me in any and all of
- 745 my real estate related activities the same as if I were an
- 746 Alabama resident licensee. I agree to be subject to
- 747 investigations and disciplinary actions the same as Alabama
- 748 resident licensees. Further, I agree that civil actions may be
- 749 commenced against me in any court of competent jurisdiction in
- 750 any county of the State of Alabama.
- 751 "I hereby appoint the Executive Director or the
- 752 Assistant Executive Director of the Alabama Real Estate
- 753 Commission as my agent upon whom all disciplinary, judicial,
- or other process or legal notices may be served. I agree that
- 755 any service upon my agent shall be the same as service upon me
- 756 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.

770 _____Legal Signature of Applicant"

(b) 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) (c) (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.

<u>b.</u> 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) (d) 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:



813	(1) Proof that he or she has had an active real estate
814	<pre>salesperson'ssalesperson license in any state for at least 24</pre>
815	months of the 36-month period immediately preceding the date
816	of application.

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following:

- (2) Proof that he or she is a high school graduate or the equivalent.
- 819 (3) Proof that he or she has completed a course in real
 820 estate approved by the commission, which shall be a minimum of
 821 60 clock hours.met all of the following requirements:
- 822 <u>a. Successfully completed a course in broker basics</u>
 823 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.
- 830 (d) (e) A person who does not hold a current real estate
 831 salesperson license in another state desiring to be a real
 832 estate salesperson in this state shall apply for a
 833 salesperson's salesperson license with the commission on a form
 834 prescribed by the commission which shall specify the real
 835 estate office to which he or she is registered. Along with the
 836 application he or she shall furnish provide all of the
 - (1) Proof that he or she is a high school graduate or the equivalent.
 - (2) Proof that he or she has successfully completed a



COL	irse in real estate approved by the commission, which shall
be	a minimum of 60 clock hours.met all of the following
rec	quirements:
	a. Successfully completed a salesperson basics course
app	proved by the commission.
	b. Passed a license examination within 90 days after
suc	ccessfully completing the salesperson basics course.
	c. Within 90 days after passing the license
exa	amination, successfully completed a course approved by the
con	mmission in salesperson professional development.
	(3) The name of the applicant's qualifying broker,
alc	ong with the information required pursuant to Section
34-	<u>-27-33.</u>
	$\frac{(3)}{(4)}$ Any other information required by the
con	nmission.
	(e)(f) An application for a company license or branch
off	fice license shall be made by a qualifying broker on a form
pre	escribed by the commission. The qualifying broker shall be
an	officer, partner, or employee of the company.
	(f)(g) An applicant for a company or broker license
sha	all maintain a place of business.
	(g)(h) If the applicant for a company or broker license
mai	ntains more than one place of business in the state, he or
she	e shall have a company or branch office license for each
sep	parate location or branch office. Every application shall
sta	ate the location of the company or branch office and the
nam	ne of its qualifying broker. Each company or branch office
sh a	all 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)(i)(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:

(1)a. All companies for which he or she is and proposes to be the qualifying broker consent in writing.

(2)<u>b.</u> 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.
- (2) A person licensed under a qualifying broker may be engaged by one or more companies with the same qualifying broker.
- (3) A person may utilize any office of a company under which he or she is licensed.

(i) (j) 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 broker temporary qualifying broker license is issued. Unless the company designates a fully licensed broker as the qualifying broker within the six months six-month period, the company license and all licenses under the company shall be classified inactive by the commission after two weeks prior electronic notice.

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. The criminal history must shall be current to the issuance of the license.

 $\frac{(k)}{(1)}$ The commission may charge a fee of ten dollars (\$10) for furnishing any person a copy of a license,



925 certificate, or other official record of the 926 commissionercommission."

Section 6. Section 34-27-33, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

929 "\$34-27-33

- (a) (1) In addition to other requirements of this chapterPursuant to Section 34-27-32, every applicant for a broker'sbroker or salesperson'ssalesperson license shall submit to a reasonable written examination. The commission shall conduct examinations at places and times it prescribes. The commission may contract with an independent testing agency 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) In addition to the requirements of Section 34-27-32(e), within Within 90 days after passing the salesperson examination, the applicant shall secure a qualifying broker and meet all requirements of this chapter and the board shall Upon notification that the applicant has secured a qualifying broker, the commission shall issue a temporary an active license or classify the license as inactive.
 - (2) In order to obtain an active a temporary 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 <u>salesperson</u> examination and complying with all other conditions for licensure, a temporary <u>salesperson</u> license <u>certificate</u> 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 <u>certificate</u>. A temporary license shall be valid only for a period of one year following the first day of the month after its issuance.
- 965 (2) <u>a.</u> The holder of a temporary license shall not be

 966 issued an original license until he or she has satisfactorily

 967 completed a 30-hour post-license course prescribed by the

 968 commission both of the following are submitted to the

 969 commission:
 - 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 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 issued,



981 otherwise his or her temporary license certificate shall 982 automatically be placed on inactive status by the commission. 983 During the remaining six months his or her temporary license 984 is valid, the holder of a temporary license may complete the 985 course and have his or her original license issued. If the 986 holder of a temporary license does not complete the course and have his or her original license issued within one year 987 following the first day of the month after its issuance, the 988 temporary license shall automatically expire and lapse. A 989 temporary license is not subject to renewal procedures in this 990 991 chapter and may not be renewed. 992 (d) (1) An inactive temporary license must be renewed 993 prior to the license renewal deadline if an original license has not yet been issued. If a temporary license remains 994 995 inactive for more than three years, the licensee must retake the salesperson professional development course prior to 996 997 activating the license. 998 (3) (2) In order to have the status of an inactive $\frac{a}{b}$ 999 temporary license issued changed to active status, the 1000 applicant shall pay the Recovery Fund fee specified in this 1001 chapter. The holder of a temporary license shall, upon 1002 satisfactory completion of the course, pay the original 1003 license fee specified in this chapter to have his or her 1004 original license issued. An applicant for an original license 1005 who has paid the Recovery Fund fee specified in this chapter 1006 shall not be required to pay another Recovery Fund fee in 1007 order to have his or her original license issued.

(4) The holder of an original license who has

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

1036 not currently licensed as a broker in another state may serve



1037	as qualifying broker over a salesperson or associate broker if
1038	all of the following apply:
1039	a. Real estate is his or her principal business.
1040	b. He or she is in a position to supervise the real
1041	estate activities of the associate broker or salesperson on a
1042	<u>full-time basis.</u>
1043	c. He or she has held an active broker license for at
1044	<pre>least 24 of the last 36 months.</pre>
1045	d. He or she has attended a qualifying broker training
1046	course approved by the commission. This course may be provided
1047	by the commission or other entities as designated by the
1048	commission.
1049	e. He or she satisfies all minimum experience
1050	requirements that the commission may adopt by rule.
1051	(2)(3)a. A salesperson or associate broker shall not
1052	perform acts for which a license is required unless licensed
1053	under a qualifying broker.
1054	$\underline{\text{b.}}$ A qualifying broker shall be held responsible to the
1055	commission and to the public for all acts governed by this
1056	chapter of each salesperson and associate broker licensed
1057	under him or her and of each company for which he or she is
1058	the qualifying broker. It shall be the duty of the The
1059	qualifying broker toshall see that all transactions of every
1060	licensee engaged by him or her or any company for which he or
1061	she is the qualifying broker comply with this chapter.
1062	c. A Additionally, the qualifying broker shall be
1063	responsible to an injured party for the damage caused by any

1064 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 broker's supervision responsibilities, as prescribed herein this section, over the real estate activities of associate brokers and salespersons licensed under him or her are not intended to create, and should not be 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 transferee's new qualifying broker shall acknowledge to the commission that in his or her opinion the transferee is honest, trustworthy, of good reputation, and that the broker accepts responsibility for the actions of the transferee under Section 34-27-33.
- 1085 (2) On payment of a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25), a

 1086 new license certificate shall be issued to the new qualifying

 1087 broker on behalf of the salesperson or associate broker for

 1088 the unexpired term of the original license. A fee of

 1089 twenty-five dollars (\$25) shall also be charged for any of the

 1090 following license changes:

(1)a. Change of qualifying broker by a company or sole proprietorship. The fee ishall be paid for theeach license or

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1093	licenses on which the current and new qualifying brokers'
1094	names appear. In cases where a company has a branch office or
1095	offices and the main office qualifying broker is changed, the
1096	fee is paid for each branch office license and for the license
1097	of each branch qualifying broker. The new qualifying broker
1098	shall notify the commission of this change, in writing, within
1099	30 days after the change.

(2)b. Change of personal name of a qualifying broker. The fee is shall be paid for the license or licenses on which the current qualifying broker's name appears.

(3)c. Change of personal name of a salesperson or associate broker. The fee is shall be paid for the license on which the name appears.

(4)d. Change of business location. The fee is shall be paid for the license or licenses on which the address appears.

(5) e. Change of business name. The fee is shall be paid for the license or licenses on which the name appears.

(6) f. Change of <u>license</u> status from inactive to active. The fee—<u>is_shall be</u> paid for each license being changed from inactive to active status. No fee is charged for the change from active to inactive status.

(c) A personqualifying broker who wishes to terminate his or her status as qualifying broker responsibility for a licensee may do so by notifying the licensee and the commission in writing and sending the licensee's license certificate to the commission or verifying in writing to the commission that the certificate has been lost or destroyed placing the licensee's license on inactive status with the



- 1121 commission.
- (d) A personAn individual who wishes to terminate his or her status as a qualifying broker for a company may do so by submitting written notice to the company, or qualifying broker of the parent company, and officers of the parent
- 1126 <u>company</u> 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:
- 1134 "\$34-27-35
- 1135 (a) The commission shall prescribe the form and content of license certificates issued. Each qualifying broker's 1136 1137 license certificate shall show the name and business address 1138 of the broker. The license certificate of each active 1139 salesperson or associate broker shall show his or her name and 1140 address. The license certificate of each active salesperson or 1141 associate broker shall be delivered or mailed to his or her 1142 qualifying broker. Each license certificate shall be kept by 1143 the qualifying broker and shall be publicly displayed at the 1144 address which appears on the license certificate.
- 1145 (b) The commission mayshall establish a one-year or 1146 multi-year license period.
- 1147 (c)(1) The fee for a temporary license shall be one 1148 hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The original fee for a

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broker'sbroker license shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) and, beginning with the license period effective October 1, 2002, the renewal fee for a broker's license shall be seventy-five dollars (\$75) per year for each year of the 1153 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 1157 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.

1163 (2) Beginning with the license period effective October 1, 2004, the The renewal fee for a broker's broker license shall 1164 be ninety-five dollars (\$95) per year for each year of the 1165 1166 license period. The original fee for each 1167 salesperson license shall be eighty-five dollars 1168 (\$85) per year for each year or portion of a year remaining in 1169 the respective license period, and the renewal fee for each 1170 salesperson license shall be eighty-five dollars (\$85) per year for each year of the license period. The 1171 1172 original fee for each company license shall be eighty-five 1173 dollars (\$85) per year for each year or portion of a year 1174 remaining in the respective license period, and the renewal fee for each license shall be eighty-five dollars (\$85) per 1175 1176 year for each year of the license period.



1177	(d) $\frac{(1)}{(1)}$ The renewal research and education fee shall be
1178	$\frac{\text{two}}{\text{seven}}$ dollars and fifty cents $\frac{(\$2.50)}{(\$7.50)}$ per year for
1179	each year of the license period and shall be paid at the time
1180	of license renewal by all brokers and salespersons in addition
1181	to the license renewal fees set out in this section.
1182	Collection of this fee shall apply to all broker and
1183	salesperson renewals, except that brokers who hold more than
1184	one broker license shall pay the fee for only one
1185	license at each renewal.
1186	(2) Beginning June 1, 2014, this fee shall be seven

(2) Beginning June 1, 2014, this fee shall be seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50), and the The proceeds shall be distributed to the Alabama Center for Real Estate.

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- 1189 (e) The original research and education fee shall be 1190 thirty dollars (\$30) and shall be paid at the time of all 1191 applications received on and after October 15, 1995, for issuance of an original broker's broker license, and shall be 1192 1193 paid at the time of all applications received on and after 1194 October 15, 1995, for issuance of a temporary 1195 salesperson license. The original research and 1196 education fee shall also be paid by reciprocal salespersons. 1197 This is in addition to the original license fees set out in 1198 this section. This thirty dollar (\$30) original research and 1199 education fee is a one-time fee which no person shall be 1200 required to pay more than once.
 - (f) The license of a salesperson who is subsequently issued a broker license automatically terminates upon the issuance of his or her broker license certificate. The salesperson license certificate shall be



returned to the commission in order for a broker's broker

license to be issued. No refund shall be made of any fee or

Recovery Fund deposit pertaining to the salesperson's,

broker's, or company's salesperson, broker, or company license

once it has been in effect.

- (g) The commission shall prescribe a license renewal form, which shall accompany renewal fees which and shall be filed on or before August 31 of the final year of each license period in order for the respective license to be renewed on a timely basis for the following license period. If any of the foregoing are filed during the period from September 1 through September 30 of the final year of a license period, the one hundred fifty dollar (\$150) penalty set out below shall be paid in addition to the renewal fees. Failure to meet this September 30 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.

 Reactivations shall be processed in the order received as
- registered mail may be used for reactivation in these cases.

 Licensees filing during the period from September 1 of the

 final year of a license period through September 30 of the

 initial year of a license period shall pay the required

 license fee, plus a penalty of one hundred fifty dollars

 (\$150).

evidenced by postmark or delivery date. Certified or

(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
the change.

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- (i) Every license shall expire at midnight on September 30 of the final year of each license period. 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 lapsedan expired 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.
- 1249 (j)(1)a. Each applicant for renewal of an active 1250 salesperson or broker license issued by the commission shall, 1251 on or before September 30 of the final year of each license 1252 period, shall submit proof of completion of not less than 15 1253 clock hours of approved continuing education course work to 1254 the commission, in addition to any other requirements for 1255 renewal. Failure to meet this deadline shall result in the 1256 license being placed on inactive status on the following 1257 October 1, and the license shall be subject to all 1258 reactivation requirements. Reactivations shall be processed in the order received as evidenced by postmark or delivery date. 1259 1260 Certified or registered mail may be used for reactivation in



1261 this case. Proof of attendance at the course work, whether or 1262 not the applicant attained a passing grade in the course, 1263 shall be sufficient to satisfy requirements for renewal. The 1264 15 clock hours' course work requirement shall apply to each 1265 two-year license renewal, and hours in excess of 15 shall not 1266 be cumulated or credited for the purpose of subsequent license 1267 renewals. The commission shall develop standards for approval 1268 of courses, and shall require certification of the course work 1269 of the applicant.

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- 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 work and shall satisfy the requirements of this subsection.
- 1274 (2) This section shall apply to renewals of licenses 1275 which that expire after September 30, 1986. An applicant for first renewal who has been licensed for not more than one year 1276 1277 shall not be required to comply with this section for the 1278 first renewal of the applicant's license. Any licensee 1279 reaching the age of 65 on or before September 30, 2000, and 1280 having been licensed 10 years prior to that date shall be 1281 exempt from this section.
- 1282 (3) Continuing education shall not result in a passing 1283 or failing grade.
- 1284 (k) A licensee may request that the commission issue

 1285 his or her license to in an inactive status. Inactive licenses

 1286 shall be held at the commission office until activated. No act

 1287 for which a license is required shall be performed under an

 1288 inactive license.



1289	(1) If a licensee presents a form of payment to the
1290	commission, or to any third party on the commission's behalf,
1291	which is declined or rejected by a financial institution or
1292	merchant service company, the licensee shall have 30 days upon
1293	electronic notification from the commission to submit full and
1294	valid payment for the initial fee or fine and an additional
1295	fee for submitting the faulty payment, not to exceed the
1296	maximum amount allowed by Section 8-8-15. Failure to submit
1297	full and valid payment within 30 days of electronic
1298	notification by the commission will result in the license
1299	becoming inactive. Failure to submit full and valid payment
1300	within six months after electronic notification by the
1301	commission will result in expiration of the license."
1302	Section 9. Section 34-27-35, Code of Alabama 1975, is
1303	amended to read as follows:
1304	" §34-27-35
1305	(a) The commission shall prescribe the form and content
1306	of license certificates issued. Each qualifying broker's
1307	license certificate shall show the name and business address
1308	of the broker. The license certificate of each active
1309	salesperson or associate broker shall show his or her name and
1310	address. The license certificate of each active salesperson or
1311	associate broker shall be delivered or mailed to his or her
1312	qualifying broker. Each license certificate shall be kept by
1313	the qualifying broker and shall be publicly displayed at the
1314	address which appears on the license certificate.

1315 (b) The commission mayshall establish a one-year or 1316 multi-year license period.

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1317	(c)(1) The fee for a temporary license shall be one
1318	hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The original fee for a
1319	<pre>broker'sbroker license shall be one hundred fifty dollars</pre>
1320	(\$150) and, beginning with the license period effective
1321	October 1, 2002, the renewal fee for a broker's license shall
1322	be seventy-five dollars (\$75) per year for each year of the
1323	license period. The original fee for each salesperson's
1324	license shall be sixty-five dollars (\$65) per year for each
1325	year or portion of a year remaining in the respective license
1326	period, and the renewal fee for each salesperson's license
1327	shall be sixty-five dollars (\$65) per year for each year of
1328	the license period. The original fee for each company license
1329	shall be sixty-five dollars (\$65) per year for each year or
1330	portion of a year remaining in the respective license period,
1331	and the renewal fee for each license shall be sixty-five
1332	dollars (\$65) per year for each year of the license period.
1222	(2) Posinning with the ligense period offective October

1333 1334 1, 2004, the The renewal fee for a broker's broker license shall 1335 be ninety-five dollars (\$95) per year for each year of the 1336 license period. The original fee for each 1337 salesperson license shall be eighty-five dollars 1338 (\$85) per year for each year or portion of a year remaining in 1339 the respective license period, and the renewal fee for each 1340 salesperson license shall be eighty-five dollars 1341 (\$85) per year for each year of the license period. The original fee for each company license shall be eighty-five 1342 dollars (\$85) per year for each year or portion of a year 1343 1344 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.

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- (d) (1) The renewal research and education fee shall be twoseven dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50)(\$7.50) per year for each year of the license period and shall be paid at the time of license renewal by all brokers and salespersons in addition to the license renewal fees set out in this section.

 Collection of this fee shall apply to all broker and salesperson renewals, except that brokers who hold more than one broker'sbroker license shall pay the fee for only one license at each renewal.
- (2) Beginning June 1, 2014, this fee shall be seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50), and the The proceeds shall be distributed to the Alabama Center for Real Estate.
- 1359 (e) The original research and education fee shall be thirty dollars (\$30) and shall be paid at the time of all 1360 applications received on and after October 15, 1995, for 1361 1362 issuance of an original broker's broker license, and shall be 1363 paid at the time of all applications received on and after 1364 October 15, 1995, for issuance of a temporary 1365 salesperson license. The original research and 1366 education fee shall also be paid by reciprocal salespersons. 1367 This is in addition to the original license fees set out in 1368 this section. This thirty dollar (\$30) original research and 1369 education fee is a one-time fee which no person shall be 1370 required to pay more than once.
 - (f) The license of a salesperson who is subsequently issued a broker.license.org/broker.licens



the issuance of his or her broker's broker license certificate.

The salesperson's license certificate shall be returned to the commission in order for a broker's license to be issued. No

refund shall be made of any fee or Recovery Fund deposit pertaining to the salesperson's, broker's, or

company's salesperson, broker, or company license once it has been in effect.

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- (q) The commission shall prescribe a license renewal form, which that shall accompany renewal fees and which that shall be filed on or before August 31 September 30 of the final year of each license period in order for the respective license to be renewed on a timely basis for the following license period. If any of the foregoing are filed during the period from September 1 through September 30 of the final year of a license period, the one hundred fifty dollar (\$150) penalty set out below shall be paid in addition to the renewal fees. Failure to meet this September 30 deadline shall result in the license expiring and being placed on inactive status on the following October 1, and the license shall be subject to all reactivation requirements. 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 these cases. Licensees filing during the period from September 1 of the final year of a license period throughafter September 30 of the initial year of a license period shall pay the required license fee, plus a penalty of one hundred fifty 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
 the change.
- 1407 (i) Every license shall expire at midnight on September 1408 30 of the final year of each license period, except for a 1409 temporary license of a salesperson whose license becomes inactive 90 days after issuance or a temporary broker whose 1410 1411 license expires six months after issuance. An expired license may be renewed during the 12-month period following the 1412 1413 license period for which the license was current. A licensee 1414 who fails to renew before the end of the 12-month period 1415 following the license period for which the license was issued 1416 has a lapsed license, and shall be subject to all requirements 1417 applicable to persons who have never been licensed, however, 1418 the commission may upon determination of hardship, allow later 1419 renewal upon payment of all fees and penalties. An inactive 1420 license must be renewed in the same manner as an active 1421 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, submitshall confirm 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

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other requirements for renewal. A maximum of six 60 minute 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.

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 cumulated or credited for the 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,
licensee reaching been licensed 10 years prior to that date
shall be exempt from this section.

(3) (4) Continuing education shall not result in a passing or failing grade.

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- 1465 (k) A licensee may request that the commission issue
 1466 his or her license to in an inactive status. Inactive licenses
 1467 shall be held at the commission office until activated. No act
 1468 for which a license is required shall be performed under an
 1469 inactive license.
- 1470 (1) If a licensee presents a form of payment to the 1471 commission, or to any third party on the commission's behalf, 1472 which is declined or rejected by a financial institution or 1473 merchant service company, the licensee shall have 30 days upon 1474 electronic notification from the commission to submit full and 1475 valid payment for the initial fee or fine and an additional 1476 fee for submitting the faulty payment, not to exceed the 1477 maximum amount allowed by Section 8-8-15. Failure to submit 1478 full and valid payment within 30 days of electronic 1479 notification by the commission will result in the license becoming inactive. Failure to submit full and valid payment 1480 1481 within six months after electronic notification by the 1482 commission will result in the license lapsing."
- Section 10. Section 34-27-36, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:



1485	" §34-27-36
1486	(a) $\underline{\text{(1)}}$ The commission or its staff may on its own, or
1487	on the verified complaint in writing of any person,
1488	investigate the actions and records of a licensee. The
1489	commission may issue subpoenas and compel the testimony of
1490	witnesses and the production of records and documents during
1491	an investigation. If probable cause is found, a formal
1492	complaint shall be filed and the commission shall hold a
1493	hearing on the formal complaint.
1494	(2) In each instance in which a person or entity
1495	engages in any of the acts described in subsection (b) or is
1496	found in violation of any of the conduct prohibited in
1497	subsection (b), the commission may impose any of the following
1498	<pre>penalties:</pre>
1499	a. Impose a fine of not less than one hundred dollars
1500	(\$100) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
1501	b. Require completion of approved education course or
1502	courses in addition to the existing continuing education
1503	requirements.

- 1504 c. Issue a public reprimand.
- 1505 d. Revoke or suspend any or all licenses held under 1506 this chapter by the person or entity. The commission shall revoke or suspend the license or impose a fine of not less 1507 than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand 1508 five hundred dollars (\$2,500), or both, or reprimand the 1509 1510 licensee in each instance in which the licensee is found quilty of any of the following acts set out in this section. 1511 1512 The commission may revoke or suspend a license



- 1513 e. Suspend until such time as the licensee has either 1514 completed an approved continuing education course, has and/or made restitution to accounts containing funds to be held for 1515 1516 other parties, or both. The commission may also stay the 1517 revocation or suspension of a license and either require 1518 completion of an approved education course and/or, require the making of restitution to accounts containing funds to be held 1519 1520 for other parties, or both.
- 1521 (b) A licensee is prohibited from doing any of the
 1522 following:
- 1523 (1) Procuring or attempting to procure, a license, for
 1524 himself or herself or another, by fraud, misrepresentation, or
 1525 deceit, or by making a material misstatement of fact in an
 1526 application for a license.
- 1527 (2) Engaging in misrepresentation or dishonest or
 1528 fraudulent acts when selling, buying, trading, or renting real
 1529 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.
- 1537 (4) Making any false promises of a character likely to
 1538 influence, persuade, or induce any person to enter into any
 1539 contract or agreement.



- 1540 (5) Pursuing a continued and flagrant course of
 1541 misrepresentation or the making of false promises through
 1542 agents or salespersons or any medium of advertising or
 1543 otherwise.
- 1544 (6) Publishing or causing to be published any
 1545 advertisement which deceives or which is likely to deceive the
 1546 public, or which in any manner tends to create a misleading
 1547 impression or which fails to identify the person causing the
 1548 advertisement to be placed as a licensed broker or
 1549 salesperson.
 - (7) Acting for more than one party in a transaction without the knowledge and consent in writing of all parties for whom he or she acts.

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- 1553 (8) a. Failing, within a reasonable time, to properly
 1554 account for or remit money coming into his or her possession
 1555 which belongs to others, or commingling money belonging to
 1556 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.
- 1561 c. Failing to keep for at least three years a complete 1562 record of funds belonging to others showing to whom the money 1563 belongs, date deposited, date of withdrawal, and other 1564 pertinent information.
- 1565 (9) Placing a sign on any property offering it for 1566 sale, lease, or rent without the consent of the owner.
 - (10) Failing to voluntarily furnish a copy of each

listing, contract, lease, and other document to each party
executing the document with reasonable promptness.

- 1570 (11) Paying any profit, compensation, commission, or 1571 fee to, or dividing any profit, compensation, commission, or 1572 fee with, anyone other than a licensee or multiple listing 1573 service. This subdivision shall not prevent an associate 1574 broker or salesperson from owning any lawfully constituted 1575 business organization, including, but not limited to, a 1576 corporation or limited liability company or limited liability 1577 corporation, for the purpose of receiving payments 1578 contemplated in this subsection. The business organization 1579 shall not be required to be licensed under this chapter, and 1580 shall not engage in any other activity requiring a real estate 1581 license.
- 1582 (12) Paying or receiving any rebate from any person in 1583 a real estate transaction.
- 1584 (13) Inducing any party to a contract to breakbreach
 1585 the contract for the purpose of substituting a new contract,
 1586 where the substitution is motivated by the personal gain of
 1587 the licensee.
- 1588 (14) If the licensee is a salesperson or associate
 1589 broker, accepting a commission or other valuable consideration
 1590 for performing any act for which a license is required from
 1591 any person or company except his or her qualifying broker or
 1592 company.
- 1593 (15) If <u>the licensee is</u> a qualifying broker or company,

 1594 allowing a salesperson or associate broker licensed under him

 1595 or her to advertise himself or herself as a real estate agent



without the name or trade name of the qualifying broker or company appearing prominently on the advertising; or if the licensee is a salesperson or associate broker, advertising himself or herself as a real estate agent without the name or trade name of the qualifying broker or company under whom the salesperson or associate broker is licensed appearing prominently on the advertising. For purposes of this 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.

- or fine, a check that is returned unpaida. As the licensee working with the buyer, failing to notify the licensee working with the seller or the unrepresented seller in writing within three business days in the event that the buyer has not deposited earnest money pursuant to a contract requiring the buyer to deposit escrow funds with any individual or entity.
- b. As the licensee working with the seller, failing to notify the seller within 24 hours after the licensee receives notice that escrow funds have not been deposited pursuant to the terms of the contract.
- (17) Establishing an association, by employment or otherwise, with an unlicensed person who is expected or required to act as a licensee, or aiding, abetting, or conspiring with a person to circumvent the requirements of this chapter.
 - (18) Failing to disclose to an owner the licensee's



intention to acquire, directly or indirectly, an interest in property which he or she or his or her associates have been employed to sell.

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- (19) Violating or disregarding any provision of this chapter or any rule, regulation, or order of the commission.
- 1629 (20) If a broker, accepting Accepting a "net listing"

 1630 agreement for sale of real property or any interest therein. A

 1631 "net listing" is one that stipulates a net price to be

 1632 received by the owner with the excess due to be received by

 1633 the broker as his or her commission and the licensee is not a

 1634 buyer, seller, or assigning buyer in the subject property.
 - (21) Misrepresenting or failing to disclose to any lender, guaranteeing agency, or any other interested party, the true terms of a sale of real estate.
- 1638 (22) Failing to inform the buyer or seller at the time 1639 an offer is presented that he or she will be expected to pay 1640 certain closing costs and the approximate amount of those 1641 costs.
- 1642 (23)a. Having entered a plea of guilty or nolo

 1643 contendere to, or having been found guilty of or convicted of

 1644 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.
- 1649 (24) Offering free lots or conducting lotteries for the 1650 purpose of influencing a party to purchase or lease real 1651 estate.



1652	(25) a. Failing to include a fixed date of expiration in
1653	a written listing agreement or failing to leave a copy of the
1654	written residential listing agreement or written residential
1655	property management agreement with the principal.

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- 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, which can be extended in writing for up to one year, if signed by all parties.
- c. Recording or filing a residential listing agreement with a probate court or probate office to encumber the property that is the subject of the listing agreement.
- (26) Conduct which constitutes or demonstrates dishonest dealings, bad faith, or untrustworthiness.
- (27) Acting negligently or incompetently in performing an act for which a person is required to hold a real estate license.
- 1668 (28) Failing or refusing on demand to produce a

 1669 document, book, or record in his or her possession concerning

 1670 a real estate transaction conducted by him or her for

 1671 inspection by the commission or its authorized personnel or

 1672 representative.
- 1673 (29) Failing within a reasonable time to provide

 1674 information requested by the commission during an

 1675 investigation or after a formal complaint has been filed.
- 1676 (30) Failing without cause to surrender to the rightful owner, on demand, a document or instrument coming into his or her possession.
- 1679 (31) If the licensee is a qualifying broker or company,



1680	failing to keep in their files copies of all contracts,
1681	leases, listings, and other records pertinent to real estate
1682	transactions for a period of three years.

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- (32) When selling, offering to sell, assigning, or offering to assign an equitable interest in a contract to purchase residential real estate:
- 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

 his or her equitable interest; or
- 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.
- 1694 <u>2. The assignment of the interest within three calendar</u>
 1695 days following the assignment.
- c. Failing to include a fixed date of closing with no
 automatic extension in the contract that establishes the
 equitable interest.
- 1699 (b) (c) If it appears that a person, firm, corporation, 1700 or any business entity has engaged, or is about to engage, in 1701 an act or practice constituting a violation of Article 1 or 2 1702 of this chapter or any rule or order of the commission, the 1703 commission, through the Attorney General, may institute legal 1704 actions to enjoin the act or practice and to enforce 1705 compliance with Articles 1 and 2 of this chapter or any rule or order of the commission. To prevail in an action, it shall 1706 1707 not be necessary to allege or prove either that an adequate

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remedy at law does not exist or that substantial or irreparable damage would result from the continued violation.

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(c) (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 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



- 1736 notice of the violations and hold a hearing thereon. Upon 1737 hearing the case and finding violations, the commission may 1738 impose a fine for each violation in an amount consistent with 1739 the range of fines applicable to licensees, and in addition, 1740 may impose a fine in the amount of any gain or economic 1741 benefit that was derived from the violation, and in addition, 1742 may impose a fine in the amount of the commission's costs 1743 incurred. Any fine or fines not paid as ordered shall be 1744 enforceable in any court with competent jurisdiction and
- 1746 (d) (e) The commission shall notify the licensee and qualifying broker in writing regarding the complaint.
- 1748 (e) (f) The commission shall notify the complainant,
 1749 licensee, and qualifying broker in writing regarding the
 1750 disposition of the complaint."
- 1751 Section 11. Sections 34-27-81, 34-27-82, 34-27-83, 1752 34-27-84, 34-27-85, and 34-27-86, Code of Alabama 1975, are 1753 amended to read as follows:
- 1754 "\$34-27-81

proper venue.

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- 1755 As used in this article, the following words shall have 1756 the following meanings:
- 1757 (1) AGENCY AGREEMENT. A written agreement between a
 1758 broker and a client which creates a fiduciary relationship
 1759 between the broker and a principal, who is commonly referred
 1760 to as a clientconsumer.
- 1761 (2) BROKER. Any person licensed as a real estate broker 1762 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.

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- (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.
- 1773 (5) CONSUMER. A person who obtains information, advice,
 1774 or services concerning real estate from a real estate
 1775 licensee CLIENT. A person who has an agency agreement with a
 1776 broker for brokerage service, whether he or she is the buyer
 1777 or seller.
- 1778 (6) CLIENT. A person who has an agency agreement with a
 1779 broker for brokerage service, whether he or she be buyer or
 1780 services CONSUMER. A person who obtains information, advice, or
 1781 services concerning real estate from a real estate licensee.
 - (7) CUSTOMER. A person who is provided brokerage services by a broker or licensee but who is not a client of the broker.
- 1785 (8) DESIGNATED SINGLE AGENT. An agency agreement in

 1786 which two or more licensed individuals under the same

 1787 qualifying broker each represent a different party in the

 1788 transaction, as designated by the qualifying broker. In this

 1789 circumstance, neither the qualifying broker nor other

 1790 licensees involved in the transaction shall be assumed to have

 1791 imputed knowledge.

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1/92	(9) DUAL AGENCY. An agency relationship agreement in
1793	which the same brokerage firm a licensee, with informed written
1794	consent of all parties to a transaction, represents both the
1795	seller and the buyer in the same real estate transaction once
1796	all parties have signed the agreement. Circumstances which
1797	establish a dual agency include, but are not limited to, one
1798	of the following:
1799	a. When two or more licensees licensed under the same
1800	broker each represent a different party to the transaction.
1801	b. When one licensee represents both the buyer and
1802	seller in a real estate transaction.
1803	(10) IMPUTED KNOWLEDGE. Knowledge attributed to a party
1804	because of his or her position, relationship to another party,
1805	or responsibility for another party.
1806	$\frac{(9)}{(11)}$ INFORMED CONSENT. A consumer's agreement to
1807	allow something to happen which is based upon full disclosure
1808	of facts needed to choose appropriate brokerage services.
1809	(10) (12) LICENSEE. Any broker, salesperson, or company.
1810	(11) LIMITED CONSENSUAL DUAL AGENT. A licensee who,
1811	with the written informed consent of all parties to a
1812	contemplated real estate transaction, is engaged as an agent
1813	for both the buyer and seller. Circumstances which establish
1814	dual agency include, but are not limited to, one of the
1815	following:
1816	a. When two or more licensees licensed under the same
1817	broker each represent a different party to the transaction.
1818	b. When one licensee represents both the buyer and
1819	soller in a real estate transaction





- 1820 (12) (13) MATERIAL FACT. A fact that is of significance
 1821 to a reasonable party which affects the party's decision to
 1822 enter into a real estate contract.
- (13) (14) QUALIFYING BROKER. A broker under whom a corporation, partnership, branch office, or lawfully constituted business organization, as the Legislature may from time to time provide, is licensed, or a broker licensed to do business as a sole proprietorship who is responsible for supervising the acts of the company, or proprietorship and all real estate licensees licensed therewith.
- 1830 $(\frac{14}{(15)}]$ REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION. The purchase, sale, 1831 lease and rental, option, or exchange of an interest in real 1832 estate.
- 1833 (15) (16) SINGLE AGENT. A licensee who has an agency

 1834 agreement and is engaged by and represents only one party in a

 1835 real estate transaction. A single agent includes, but is not

 1836 limited to, onemay be only one of the following:
- a. Buyer's agent, which means a broker or licensee who is engaged by and represents only the buyer in a real estate 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.
- (16) SUB-AGENT. A licensee who is empowered to act for
 another broker in performing real estate brokerage tasks for a
 principal, and who owes the same duties to the principal as
 the agent of the principal.

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(17) TRANSACTION BROKERFACILITATOR. The term has the

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same meaning as "transaction broker" provided in Section

34-27-81. The term also includes aA licensee who assists one or more parties in a contemplated real estate transaction without being an agent or fiduciary or advocate for the interest of that party to a transaction."

"\$34-27-82

- (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.
- (c) As soon as reasonably possible and before any confidential information is disclosed to any other person by a licensee, the licensee shall provide a written disclosure form to a consumer for signature describing the alternative types of brokerage services, as identified in subsection (a), that are available to clients and customers of real estate brokerage companies. The licensee shall also inform a consumer as to the specific types of brokerage services that are provided by his or her company. A broker shall not be required to offer or engage in any one or in all of the alternative



brokerage arrangements services specified in subsection (a).

The licensee will provide a written form to the consumer for
their signature describing the alternative types of brokerage

arrangements services available. All rental or property

management services are excluded from the requirements of this

1881

subsection.

- 1882 (d) A licensee shall not be required to comply with the 1883 provisions of subsection (c) when engaged in transactions with 1884 any corporation, non-profit nonprofit corporation, professional corporation, professional association, limited liability 1885 1886 company, partnership, any partnership created under the Uniform Partnership Act (commencing at Section 10-8A-101), 1887 1888 real estate investment trust, business trust, charitable 1889 trust, family trust, or any governmental entity in 1890 transactions involving real estate.
- (e) After disclosure, the consumer may make an 1891 1892 affirmative election of a specific type of brokerage 1893 arrangementservice that is available from the real estate 1894 brokerage company. The brokerage agreement shall contain a 1895 statement of the terms and conditions of the brokerage 1896 services that the brokercompany will provide. In the absence 1897 of a signed brokerage agreement between the parties, the 1898 transaction brokerage facilitator relationship shall remain in 1899 effect.
- 1900 (f) When serving as a transaction broker facilitator,

 1901 the duties of the licensee to all the parties to a real estate

 1902 transaction are limited to those which are enumerated in

 1903 Section 34-27-84. A signed brokerage agreement between the





1904	parties or, in the absence of a signed brokerage agreement,
1905	the continuation of the transaction <code>brokerage</code> facilitator
1906	relationship, shall constitute informed consent by the
1907	consumer as to the services the consumer shall receive from
1908	the broker.
1909	(g) Disclosure forms shall be provided to buyers and
1910	sellers. All real estate <u>brokerage firms</u> companies operating
1911	within the State of Alabama shall use the same agency
1912	disclosure forms. Disclosure forms describing the alternative
1913	types of brokerage services identified above shall be written
1914	by the Alabama Real Estate Commission.
1915	(h) Each offer to purchase shall prominently display a
1916	representation disclosure clause in the following form,
1917	<pre>completed and initialed as indicated:</pre>
1918	The listing licensee, , is:
1919	☐ An agent of the seller.
1920	☐ A dual agent.
1921	\square Assisting the seller as a transaction facilitator.
1922	The selling licensee, , is:
1923	☐ An agent of the buyer.
1924	☐ A dual agent.
1925	\square Assisting the buyer as a transaction facilitator.
1926	(h)(i) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the
1927	consumer from entering into a written contract with a
1928	<pre>qualifying broker which contains provisions for services not</pre>
1929	specifically identified in the written disclosure form."
1930	" §34-27-83

1931 Any qualifying broker acting in a real estate



transaction shall adopt a written agency disclosure office
policy which specifically enumerates the types of brokerage
service arrangements services a licensee may offer or accept.

- (a) The qualifying broker for each brokerage real estate company shall provide every licensee a copy of the agency disclosure policy regarding the types of brokerage services offered by their company. This policy shall be explained to all licensees at least once a year.
- (b) A form acknowledging receipt of the <u>agency</u>

 <u>disclosure</u> office policy <u>statement</u> and a satisfactory

 explanation of its contents shall be signed by each licensee and a copy retained by the <u>brokerage</u> real estate company for three years."

1945 "\$34-27-84

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- 1946 (a) Licensees shall have all of the following
 1947 obligations to all parties in a real estate transaction:
 - (1) To provide brokerage services to all parties to the transaction honestly and in good faith.
 - (2) To exercise reasonable skill and care in providing brokerage services to all parties.
- 1952 (3) To keep confidential any information given to the 1953 licensee in confidence, or any information obtained by the 1954 licensee that the licensee knows a reasonable individual would 1955 want to keep confidential, unless disclosure of this 1956 information is required by law, violates a fiduciary duty to a 1957 client, becomes public knowledge, or is authorized by the party in writing, or the information becomes public knowledge, 1958 1959 or the failure to disclose the information violates a



1960 fiduciary duty to a client.

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- 1961 (4) To account for all property coming into the
 1962 possession of the licensee that belongs to any party to the
 1963 real estate transaction.
 - (5) When assisting a party in the negotiation of a real estate transaction, to present all written offers in a timely and truthful manner.
- 1967 (6) To act on behalf of the licensee or his or her
 1968 immediate family, or on behalf of any other individual,
 1969 organization, or business entity in which the licensee has a
 1970 personal interest only with prior timely written disclosure of
 1971 this interest to all parties to the transaction.
- 1972 (b) A licensee may provide requested information which
 1973 affects a transaction to any party who requests the
 1974 information, unless disclosure of the information is
 1975 prohibited by law or in this article.
- 1976 (c) When accepting an agreement to list an owner's
 1977 property for sale, the broker or his or her licensee shall, at
 1978 a minimum, accept delivery of and present to the consumer all
 1979 offers, counteroffers, and addenda to assist the consumer in
 1980 negotiating offers, counteroffers, and addenda, and to answer
 1981 the consumer's questions relating to the transaction."
- 1982 "\$34-27-85
- 1983 (a) In addition to the duties enumerated in Section 1984 34-27-84, a licensee shall provide all of the following 1985 services to clients:
- 1986 (1) Loyally represent the best interests of the client 1987 by placing the interests of the client ahead of the interests



- of any other party, unless loyalty to a client violates the duties of the licensee to other parties under Section 34-27-84, or is otherwise prohibited by law.
- 1991 (2) Disclose to the client all information known by the
 1992 licensee that is material to the transaction and not
 1993 discoverable by the client through reasonable investigation
 1994 and observation, except for confidential information as
 1995 provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of Section
 1996 34-27-84(a)(3). A licensee shall have no affirmative duty to
 1997 discover the information.
 - (3) Fulfill any obligation required by the agency agreement, and any lawful instructions of the client that are within the scope of the agency agreement, that are not inconsistent with other duties as enumerated in this article.
- (b) A brokerlicensee who represents more than one

 client in a real estate transaction owes the duties as

 specified in subsection (a) to each client, except where the

 duties to one client will violate the fiduciary duties of the

 licensee to other clients.
- 2007 (c) A <u>broker_licensee</u> may provide brokerage services as
 2008 a <u>limited consensual</u> dual agent only with the prior written,
 2009 informed consent of all clients of the <u>broker_licensee</u> in the
 2010 transaction."
- 2011 "\$34-27-86

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2012 (a) A client is not liable for a misrepresentation made
2013 by a broker_licensee in connection with the broker_licensee
2014 providing brokerage services unless the client knows or should
2015 have known of the misrepresentation or the broker_licensee is



2016	repeating a misrepresentation made by the client to the
2017	broker licensee.
2018	(b) A licensee shall not be liable for providing

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- (b) A licensee shall not be liable for providing false information to a party in a real estate transaction if the false information was provided to the licensee by a client of the licensee or by a customer or by another licensee unless the licensee knows or should have known that the information was false."
- Section 12. Sections 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, and 11 shall 2024 2025 become effective on October 1, 2024; Sections 5, 6, and 9 2026 shall become effective on October 1, 2026, and shall apply to 2027 licenses issued or renewed on or after October 1, 2026; 2028 Section 7 shall become effective on October 1, 2026; and 2029 Section 2 shall become effective on October 1, 2027, and shall 2030 apply to licenses issued or renewed on or after October 1, 2027. 2031