

- 1 HB13
- 2 U28MGDG-1
- 3 By Representative Hollis
- 4 RFD: Commerce and Small Business
- 5 First Read: 05-Feb-24
- 6 2024 Regular Session



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4	SYNOPSIS:
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6	Under existing law pertaining to licensing real
7	estate companies, brokers, and salespersons, there is
8	no provision limiting the number of co-brokerage
9	agreements a licensed out-of-state broker may enter
10	into with state licensed brokers.
11	Under existing law, there is no limit on the
12	duration of a residential listing agreement.
13	Under existing law, there are no specific
14	disclosures required of licensees dealing in equitable
15	interests in a contract for purchase and sale of
16	residential property.
17	This bill would provide certain requirements
18	pertaining to training, qualifications, licensure, and
19	license renewal for licensed real estate companies,
20	brokers, salespersons, teams, schools that offer real
21	estate training courses, and applicants for licensure.
22	This bill would provide certain restrictions on
23	transactions between licensed out-of-state co-brokers
24	and licensees of this state.
25	This bill would provide that the Alabama Real
26	Estate Commission may impose penalties for a licensee's
27	failure to disclose certain aspects of transactions
28	involving the sale or assignment of an equitable



29 interest in a contract for the purchase and sale of 30 residential real estate. 31 This bill would further provide that the Alabama 32 Real Estate Commission may impose penalties for certain 33 conduct by licensees including, but not limited to, the 34 failure to specify the expiration date of a residential 35 listing agreement or for creating an encumbrance on the 36 property that is the subject of a residential listing 37 agreement by recording the listing agreement with a probate officer. 38 39 This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code 40 41 language to current style. 42 43 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 44 45 AN ACT 46 47 Relating to licensed real estate professionals and 48 companies; to amend Sections 34-27-2, 34-27-3, 34-27-6, 49 34-27-8, 34-27-32, 34-27-33, 34-27-34, 34-27-35, 34-27-36, 50 34-27-81, 34-27-82, 34-27-83, 34-27-84, 34-27-85, and 51 34-27-86, Code of Alabama 1975; to add Section 34-27-39; to 52 provide certain requirements related to training, 53 qualifications and licensure of real estate companies, 54 brokers, and salespersons; to provide restrictions on licensed 55 out-of-state co-broker transactions in the state; to impose 56 penalties for certain licensee conduct including certain



57 conduct related to the sale or assignment of an equitable 58 interest in a residential purchase and sale agreement and for 59 the failure to provide a specified expiration date of a 60 residential listing agreement; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to 61 62 current style. 63 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA: 64 Section 1. Sections 34-27-2, and 34-27-3, Code of 65 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows: "\$34-27-2 66 67 (a) For purposes of Articles 1 and 2 of this chapter, the following terms shall have the respective following 68 meanings ascribed by this section: 69 70 (1) APARTMENT. A building or complex with more than 71 four individual units built primarily for residential leasing 72 purposes. 73 (1) (2) ASSOCIATE BROKER. Any broker other than a 74 qualifying broker. 75 (2) (3) BROKER. Any person licensed as a real estate 76 broker under Articles 1 and 2 of this chapter. 77 (4) COMMISSION. The Alabama Real Estate Commission, except where the context requires that it means the fee paid 78 79 to a broker or salesperson. 80 (4) (5) COMMISSIONER. A member of the commission. 81 (5) (6) COMPANY. Any sole proprietorship, corporation, partnership, branch office, or lawfully constituted business 82 organization as the Legislature may provide for from time to 83 84 time, which is licensed as a company under Articles 1 and 2 of



85 this chapter.

86 (6) (7) ENGAGE. Contractual relationships between a 87 qualifying broker and an associate broker or salesperson 88 licensed under him or her whether the relationship is 89 employer-employee, independent contractor, or otherwise. 90 (8) EQUITABLE INTEREST IN A CONTRACT OF EQUITABLE 91 INTEREST. Any interests or rights in a contract or agreement 92 to purchase residential real estate held by a party to the 93 contract or agreement. (7) (9) INACTIVE LICENSE. A license which is being held 94 95 by the commission office by law, order of the commission, at the request of the licensee, or which is renewable but is not 96 97 currently valid because of failure to renew. 98 (8) (10) LICENSEE. Any broker, salesperson, or company. 99 (9) (11) LICENSE PERIOD. That period of time beginning on October 1 of a year designated by the commission to be the 100 first year of a license period and ending on midnight 101 102 September 30 of the year designated by the commission as the 103 final year of that license period. 104 (12) LISTING AGREEMENT. An agreement between a company 105 and an owner by which the company agrees to assist the owner 106 in the sale of the owner's real property in exchange for a 107 fee. The definition includes agreements giving the company the 108 right to list or market the owner's real property upon the 109 owner's future decision to sell the property. 110 (13) OWNER. A person or entity legally deeded real 111 property. 112 (10) (14) PERSON. A natural person.



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(11)(15) PLACE OF BUSINESS.

a. A licensed broker living in a rural area of this 114 115 state who operates from his or her home, provided that he or 116 she sets up and maintains an office for the conduct of the 117 real estate business, which shall not be used for living 118 purposes or occupancy other than the conduct of the real 119 estate business. The office shall be used by the broker only 120 and not as a place of business from which any additional 121 licensee operates under his or her license. The office shall have a separate business telephone, separate entrance, and be 122 123 properly identified as a real estate office.

b. All licensees located within the city limits or 124 125 police jurisdiction of a municipality shall operate from a 126 separate office located in the city limits or police 127 jurisdiction. The office shall have a business telephone, meet all other regulations of the Real Estate Commission, and be 128 129 properly identified as a real estate office. Hardship cases 130 may be subject to waiver of this regulation upon application 131 and approval by the commission.

132 c. All business records and files shall be kept at the 133 place of business as required by law or Real Estate Commission 134 rules.

135 (16) PRINCIPAL BROKER. As used in other states, having
136 the same meaning as "qualifying broker" in this state.

137 (12)(17) QUALIFYING BROKER. A broker under whom a sole 138 proprietorship, corporation, partnership, branch office, or 139 lawfully constituted business organization as the Legislature 140 may from time to time provide is licensed, or a broker



141 licensed as a company to do business as a sole proprietorship 142 who is responsible for supervising the acts of the company or 143 proprietorship and all real estate licensees licensed 144 therewith. 145 (13) (18) RECOVERY FUND. The Alabama Real Estate 146 Recovery Fund. 147 (19) RESIDENTIAL. Pertaining to real property located 148 in the state which is used primarily for personal, family, or 149 household purposes. (14) (20) SALESPERSON. Any person licensed as a real 150 151 estate salesperson under Articles 1 and 2 of this chapter. 152 (21) TEAM. Licensees within the same company who group 153 together to share consumers, resources, knowledge, or 154 commissions. 155 (b) The licensing requirements of Articles 1 and 2 of 156 this chapter shall not apply to any of the following persons 157 and transactions: 158 (1) Any owner in the managing of, or in consummating a 159 real estate transaction involving, his or her own real estate 160 or the real estate of his or her spouse or child or parent. 161 (2) An attorney-at-law performing his or her duties as 162 an attorney-at-law. 163 (3) Persons acting without compensation and in good 164 faith under a duly executed power of attorney authorizing the consummation of a real estate transaction.

(4) Persons or a state or federally chartered financial 166 institution acting as a receiver, trustee, administrator, 167 168 executor, or guardian; or acting under a court order or under

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169 authority of a trust instrument or will.

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(5) Public officers performing their official duties.

(6) Persons performing general clerical or
administrative duties for a broker so long as the person does
not physically show listed property.

(7) Persons acting as the manager for an apartment building or complex. However, this exception shall not apply to a person acting as an on-site manager of a condominium building or complex.

178 (8) Persons licensed as time-share sellers under
179 Article 3 of this chapter performing an act consistent with
180 that article.

181 (9) Transactions involving the sale, lease, or transfer 182 of cemetery lots."

183 "§34-27-3

(a) A licensed principal broker of another state may 184 185 act as co-broker, whether in sales or lease transactions, with 186 a licensed qualifying broker of this state by executing a written agreement specifying each parcel of property covered 187 188 by the agreement if the state in which the nonresident broker 189 is licensed offers the same privileges to licensees of this 190 state. Co-brokerage agreements are limited to three 191 transactions per calendar year, per licensed out-of-state 192 principal broker. Transactions may include multiple properties 193 if the properties are part of the same portfolio. No licensed 194 out-of-state principal broker shall use co-brokerage agreements to engage in transactions totaling more than fifty 195

196 million dollars (\$50,000,000) in any one calendar year.



197	(b) Whenever an Alabama <u>qualifying</u> broker enters into a
198	co-brokerage agreement with a nonresidentlicensed out-of-state
199	principal broker to perform in Alabama any of the acts
200	described in Section 34-27-30, the Alabama <u>qualifying</u> broker
201	shall file within 10 days with the commission a copy of each
202	such written agreement not more than 10 days after the
203	agreement is signed by all parties. By signing the agreement,
204	the <mark>nonresident</mark> licensed out-of-state principal broker agrees
205	to abide by Alabama law, and the rules and regulations of the
206	commission; and further agrees that civil actions may be
207	commenced against him or her in any court of competent
208	jurisdiction in any county of this state in which a claim may
209	arise.
210	(c) All co-brokerage agreements with licensed
211	out-of-state co-brokers shall include all of the following
212	provisions:
213	(1) The Alabama broker shall require a listing or joint
214	listing of the property involved.
215	(2) The agreement shall specify all material terms,
216	including, but not limited to, the financial terms.
217	(3) The showing of property located in Alabama and any
218	negotiations pertaining to it shall be supervised by the
219	Alabama broker.
220	(4) The name of the Alabama broker shall appear in all
221	advertising of real property located in the state.
222	(5) The Alabama broker shall be liable for all acts of
223	the licensed out-of-state broker, as well as his or her own
224	acts, arising from the execution of the co-brokerage



225	agreement
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226 (6) The Alabama broker shall verify that the licensed 227 out-of-state broker is a licensed principal broker in another 228 state. 229 (7) Any earnest money deposited pursuant to the 230 agreement must be held in escrow by the Alabama broker unless 231 both the buyer and the seller agree in writing to relieve the 232 Alabama broker of this responsibility." 233 Section 2. Section 34-27-6, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows: 234 235 "\$34-27-6 (a) For purposes of this section and rules adopted 236 pursuant thereto, the following terms shall have the following 237 238 meanings: 239 (1) ACCREDITED SCHOOL. Any nonprofit college or 240 university meeting the standards of an accrediting agency 241 recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and offering 242 any commission-approved course. 243 (1) (2) ADMINISTRATOR. A person designated by a 244 principal school or branch school licensed by the commission 245 and approved by the commission to be the person responsible to 246 the commission for all acts governed by this chapter and 247 applicable rules which govern the operation of schools. 248 (2) (3) APPROVED COURSE. Any course of instruction 249 approved by the commission that satisfies commission 250 requirements for prelicense education, postlicense education, or continuing education. 251 252 (3) APPROVED SCHOOL. Any proprietary educational



253	institution offering only commission approved continuing
254	education courses and any accredited college or university
255	that offers any commission approved course.
256	(4) BRANCH SCHOOL. Any school under the ownership of a
257	principal school which offers commission approved courses at a
258	permanent location.
259	(5) CE-ONLY SCHOOL. Any private educational institution
260	or organization offering only commission-approved continuing
261	education courses.
262	(6) CONTINUING EDUCATION. Any professional course
263	required to renew or activate a license which shall be a
264	minimum of one hour upon approval of the commission.
265	(7) DISTANCE EDUCATION. Programs whereby instruction
266	does not take place in a traditional classroom setting but
267	rather where teacher and student are apart by distance or by
268	time and instruction takes place through other media.
269	(5)(8) INSTRUCTIONAL SITE. Any physical place where
270	commissionapproved instruction is conducted apart from the
271	principal school or branch school.
272	(9) INSTRUCTOR. A person approved licensed by the
273	commission to teach approved courses in the classroom or by
274	distance education.
275	(7)(10) LICENSEDPRELICENSE SCHOOL. Any proprietary
276	school that is licensed by the commission and bonded,
277	including any for-profit college, that offers commission-
278	approved prelicense courses or postlicense courses, or both,
279	only after being licensed and bonded by the commission.
280	Prelicense schools may also offer continuing education



281 courses.

282 (8) (11) PRINCIPAL SCHOOL. Any institution or 283 organization which is the primary school and not a branch 284 school that is approved and is licensed by the commission. 285 (9) PROPRIETARY SCHOOL. Any school that is not an 286 accredited college or university and which offers commission 287 approved prelicense courses or postlicense courses, or both, 288 only after being licensed and bonded by the commission. Each 289 branch school shall be licensed separately. (b) The commission shall approve and regulate schools 290 291 that offer commission approved prelicense, postlicense, and continuing education courses. The commission shall be the 292 293 board, commission, or agency withhave the sole and exclusive authority to license proprietaryand regulate schools and their 294 branches for the limited purpose of their offerings of 295 commission approved prelicense courses or postlicense courses, 296 297 or both that offer commission-approved prelicense and 298 continuing education courses. 299 (c) (1) The commission shall require proprietary require 300 prelicense principal schools to furnishobtain a surety bond 301 issued by a surety company authorized to do business in 302 Alabama, payable to the commission in the amount of an amount not to exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) with a surety 303 304 company authorized to do business in Alabama, which bond shall 305 provide. The bond shall provide that the bond obligor therein 306 shall pay up to an amount not to exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) in the aggregate sum of all judgments which shall be 307 308 recovered against the school for damages arising from the

309	school's collection of tuition or fees, or both, from
310	students, but failing to provide the complete instruction for
311	which <u>such</u> the tuition or fees were collected.
312	(2) The bond shall be obtained by the school and shall
313	also cover any branch schools named in the bond or any
314	endorsement or amendment of or to the bond.
315	(3) The bond shall remain in effect as long as the
316	school is licensed. In the event the bond is revoked or
317	<pre>cancelled_canceled by the surety company, the school shall have</pre>
318	10 days after cancellation or revocation to obtain a new bond
319	and file-it_the bond with the commission. Failure to maintain
320	a bond shall result in the immediate suspension of the
321	licenses of the school and all of its branches.
322	The bond shall be provided by the school and shall also
323	cover any branch schools named in the bond or any endorsement
324	or amendment thereto.
325	(d) (1) The commission shall charge a license fee for
326	each licensed prelicense principal school and shall charge a
327	fee for each branch school in the amount of two hundred fifty
328	dollars (\$250) per year for each year or portion of a year
329	remaining in the respective license period. The renewal fee
330	for each school licenseprelicense principal and branch school
331	shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) for each year
332	of the license period.
333	(2) The commission shall charge a license fee for each
334	CE-only school in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) per
335	year for each year or remaining portion of a year in any
336	license period. The renewal fee for each CE-only school shall



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

338 (e) (1) The commission shall require all schools to name 339 and have approved_licensed by the commission an_school 340 administrator who shall be responsible to the commission for 341 all actions of his or her respective school.

342 (2) Each administrator shall pay a license fee in the 343 amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) per year for each year or 344 remaining portion of a year of any license period. The renewal 345 fee for each administrator shall be fifty dollars (\$50) for 346 each year of the license period.

347 (f) PrincipalEach schools and branch school shall be clearly identified by signage which shall indicate the name of 348 349 the school as in a manner appropriate for theits location. The 350 signage shall set out the name of the principal school. Branch 351 schools shall be clearly identified by signage as appropriate 352 for the location. The signage For branch schools the signage 353 shall set out the name of the branch school and the name of 354 the principal school.

(g) The commission shall have the authority to may 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

362 countviolation.

363 (h) The commission shall approve, sponsor, contract for 364 or conduct, or assist in sponsoring or conducting, real estate



365	courses for licensees, may charge fees, and may incur and pay
366	the necessary <u>related</u> expenses in connection therewith.
367	(i) (1) The commission shall approvelicense and regulate
368	instructors who teach the commissionapproved prelicense $_{ au}$
369	postlicense, and continuing education courses. The commission
370	shall establish and collect fees as determined necessary $_{ au}$ from
371	licensed instructors who teach commission-approved courses, in
372	an amount not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50) per instructor
373	annually , to approved instructors who teach commission
374	approved courses.
375	(2) The commission shall establish a continuing
376	education requirement for all active prelicense instructors.
377	(j)(1) An instructor, administrator, or school may
378	request that the commission issue or change its license to
379	inactive status. An instructor, administrator, or school
380	licensee whose license status is inactive shall be prohibited
381	from engaging in any of the following:
382	a. Teaching commission-approved courses if the licensee
383	<u>is an instructor.</u>
384	b. Offering commission-approved courses if the licensee
385	is a school.
386	c. Performing any duties of an administrator if the
387	licensee is an administrator, including, but not limited to,
388	registering students, advertising the school, reporting course
389	schedules to the commission, or entering student credit for
390	completed courses.
391	(2) The inactive license of an instructor,
392	administrator, or school must be renewed in the same manner as



393	an active license for an instructor, administrator, or school.
394	(3) A prelicense instructor whose license status is
395	inactive for three years or less and who renews his or her
396	license while its status is inactive may activate his or her
397	license for the first time during any license period by
398	meeting both of the following requirements:
399	a. Completing any continuing education requirement for
400	licensed instructors that remains incomplete from the previous
401	license period.
402	b. Paying a license activation fee.
403	c. If the license remains inactive for longer than
404	three years, the prelicense instructor must take required
405	training before activating his or her license. Once the
406	license is activated, a prelicense instructor will be
407	responsible for completing the then current continuing
408	education coursework requirement to renew the active license
409	for the next license period.
410	(4) In addition to any other requirements provided in
411	this section, any instructor, administrator, or a school which
412	is seeking to change its license status from inactive to
413	active shall be required to pay a license activation fee in
414	the amount of fifty dollars (\$50) per license.
415	(k) An active prelicense instructor with an inactive
416	broker license must remain current with continuing education
417	requirements for active brokers as well as the continuing
418	education requirements for active prelicense instructors.
419	(1)(1) All education licenses and approvals shall
420	expire at midnight on September 30 of the final year of each



421	license period. Each prelicense instructor must complete
422	required continuing education courses and provide proof of
423	completion to the commission on or before September 30 of the
424	final year of each license period.
425	(2) The continuing education coursework requirement
426	shall apply to each two-year education renewal. Coursework
427	hours completed in excess of the requirement shall not be
428	applicable to any subsequent renewal.
429	(3) An inactive status license of a prelicense
430	instructor shall be renewed in the same manner as for an
431	active prelicense instructor except that continuing education
432	coursework shall not be required while the license remains
433	<u>inactive.</u>
434	(m) Any prelicense instructor, administrator, or school
435	that fails to renew its license by the September 30 deadline
436	shall incur a late fee in the amount of two hundred dollars
437	(\$200) per license as of October 1 of the first year of the
438	new license period.
439	(n)(1) A prelicense instructor, administrator, or
440	school may renew an expired license during the twelve-month
441	period following the September 30 renewal deadline, provided
442	that the licensee shall not engage in any licensed activity
443	until the license is renewed.
444	(2) After the last day of the twelfth month following
445	the September 30 renewal deadline, an expired license shall
446	lapse and shall be subject to all requirements applicable to
447	an original license.
448	(3) The commission may allow late renewal of a lapsed



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



477 <u>approval_license</u> period through September 30 of the final year 478 of the <u>approval_license</u> period.

479 (1) (q) The commission shall promulgateadopt rules and
480 regulations as necessary to accomplish the purpose of this
481 section in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act."

482 Section 3. Section 34-27-8, Code of Alabama 1975, is 483 amended to read as follows:

484 "\$34-27-8

(a) A majority of the commission members shall
constitute a quorum for the conduct of commission business.
The commission may adopt and enforce all rules and regulations
pursuant to the state administrative procedure statutes
necessary for the administration of this chapter, and to
otherwise do all things necessary and convenient for effecting
this chapter.

492 (b) In addition to the powers granted in this section,
493 the commission may adopt and enforce rules and regulations
494 governing the requirements of agency disclosure by licensed
495 brokers and salespersons.

496 (c) Each offer to purchase prepared after August 1, 497 1998, shall have prominently displayed the following AGENCY 498 DISCLOSURE clause which shall be completed and initialed as 499 indicated:

500 The listing company is:

501 (Two blocks may be checked)

502 <u>An agent of the seller.</u>

503 <u>An agent of the buyer.</u>

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



533 not be issued an Alabama real estate license without the 534 approval of the commissioners.

535 (3) Is a person whose real estate license has not been 536 revoked in any state within the two years prior to application 537 for real estate licensure with Alabama. If the applicant's 538 real estate licensure revocation in any state, including 539 Alabama, is more than two years from the date of application 540 for licensure with Alabama then the applicant may not be 541 issued an Alabama real estate license without the approval of 542 the commissioners.

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(4) Is at least 19 years oldof 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.

549 (6) Is a person who, if a nonresident, agrees to sign550 an affidavit stating the following and in the following form:

551 "I, as a nonresident applicant for a real estate 552 license and as a licensee, agree that the Alabama Real Estate 553 Commission shall have jurisdiction over me in any and all of 554 my real estate related activities the same as if I were an 555 Alabama resident licensee. I agree to be subject to 556 investigations and disciplinary actions the same as Alabama resident licensees. Further, I agree that civil actions may be 557 558 commenced against me in any court of competent jurisdiction in any county of the State of Alabama. 559

560

"I hereby appoint the Executive Director or the



561 Assistant Executive Director of the Alabama Real Estate 562 Commission as my agent upon whom all disciplinary, judicial, 563 or other process or legal notices may be served. I agree that 564 any service upon my agent shall be the same as service upon me 565 and that certified copies of this appointment shall be deemed 566 sufficient evidence and shall be admitted into evidence with the same force and effect as the original might be admitted. I 567 568 agree that any lawful process against me which is served upon 569 my agent shall be of the same legal force and validity as if personally served upon me and that this appointment shall 570 continue in effect for as long as I have any liability 571 remaining in the State of Alabama. I understand that my agent 572 shall, within a reasonable time after service upon him or her, 573 574 mail a copy of the service by certified mail, return receipt 575 requested, to me at my last known business address.

576 "I agree that I am bound by all the provisions of the 577 Alabama Real Estate License Law the same as if I were a 578 resident of the State of Alabama.

579 Legal Signature of Applicant" 580 The commission may reject the application of any person 581 who has been convicted of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere 582 to a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude.

(b) (1)<u>a.</u> 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



589 residents of Alabama, shall apply for a reciprocal broker 590 license on a form prescribed by the commission.

591 b. The applicant shall submit proof that he or she has 592 a current real estate license in another state as evidenced by 593 a certificate of licensure, together with any other 594 information required by the commission. The applicant shall also show proof that he or she has completed at least six 595 596 hours of course work in Alabama real estate which is approved 597 by the commission. Applicants for a reciprocal license shall not be subject to the complete examination or temporary 598 599 license requirements of Section 34-27-33, but shall pass a 600 reasonable written examination prepared by the commission on 601 the subject of Alabama real estate. A person who holds a 602 reciprocal license shall show proof of completion of 603 continuing education either by meeting the requirements of Section 34-27-35 or by showing proof that his or her other 604 605 state license remains active in that state.

606 <u>c.</u> The fees for issuance and renewal of a reciprocal 607 license shall be the same as those for original licenses 608 pursuant to Section 34-27-35. The recovery fund fee for 609 issuance of a reciprocal license shall be the same as for an 610 original license pursuant to Section 34-27-31.

(2) A person who holds a current Alabama license who
moves to and becomes a resident of the state shall within 10
days submit to the commission notice of change of address and
all other license status changes.

615 (c) A person who does not hold a current real estate616 broker license in another state desiring to be a real estate



617 broker in this state shall apply for a broker'sbroker license 618 on a form prescribed by the commission which shall specify the 619 real estate office to which he or she is registered. Along 620 with the application, he or she shall submit all of the 621 following:

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

626 (2) Proof that he or she is a high school graduate or627 the equivalent.

(3) Proof that he or she has completed a course in real
estate approved by the commission, which shall be a minimum of
60 clock hours.

(4) Any other information requested by the commission.
(d) A person who does not hold a current real estate
salesperson license in another state desiring to be a real
estate salesperson in this state shall apply for a
salesperson'ssalesperson 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

639 (1) Proof that he or she is a high school graduate or640 the equivalent.

application he or she shall furnish all of the following:

638

641 (2) Proof that he or she has successfully completed a
642 course in real estate approved by the commission, which shall
643 be a minimum of 60 clock hours.

644 (3) Any other information required by the commission.



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

649 (f) An applicant for a company or broker license shall650 maintain a place of business.

651 (g) If the applicant for a company or broker license 652 maintains more than one place of business in the state, he or 653 she shall have a company or branch office license for each separate location or branch office. Every application shall 654 655 state the location of the company or branch office and the name of its qualifying broker. Each company or branch office 656 657 shall be under the direction and supervision of a qualifying 658 broker licensed at that address. No person may serve as 659 qualifying broker at more than one location. The qualifying broker for the branch office and the qualifying broker for the 660 company shall share equal responsibility for the real estate 661 662 activities of all licensees assigned to the branch office or 663 company.

(h) (1) No person shall be a qualifying broker for more
than one company or for a company and on his or her own behalf
unless he or she meets all of the following requirements:

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

669 (2)b. He or she files a copy of the written consent
670 with the commission.

671 <u>c. All companies for which he or she is and proposes to</u> 672 be the qualifying broker share the same company address (3) He



673 or she will be doing business from the same location.

674 (2) A person licensed under a qualifying broker may be 675 engaged by one or more companies with the same qualifying 676 broker.

677 (3) A person may utilize any office of a company under
678 which he or she is licensed.

679 (i) A company license shall become invalid on the death 680 or disability of a qualifying broker. Within 30 days after the 681 death or disability, the corporation, or the remaining partners or the successor partnership, if any, may designate 682 683 another of its officers, members, or salespersons to apply for a license as temporary qualifying broker. The person 684 685 designated as temporary qualifying broker shall either be a 686 broker or have been a salesperson for at least one year prior 687 to filing the application. If the application is granted, the company may operate under that temporary qualifying broker for 688 no more than six months after the death or disability of its 689 690 former qualifying broker temporary qualifying broker license is 691 issued. Unless the company designates a fully licensed broker 692 as the qualifying broker within the six months, the company 693 license and all licenses under the company shall be classified 694 inactive by the commission.

(j) The commission shall require both state and
national criminal history background checks to issue a
license. Applicants shall submit required information and
fingerprints to the commission, Federal Bureau of
Investigation, Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, or its
successor, or to a fingerprint processing service that may be



701 selected by the commission for this purpose. Criminal history 702 record information shall be provided to the commission from 703 both the State of Alabama and the Federal Bureau of 704 Investigation. The commission can use the provided criminal 705 history for the determination of the qualifications and 706 fitness of the applicant to hold a real estate license. The 707 applicant shall assume the cost of the criminal history check. 708 The criminal history must shall be current to the issuance of 709 the license.

(k) The commission may charge a fee of ten dollars
(\$10) for furnishing any person a copy of a license,
certificate, or other official record of the commissioner."

713 Section 5. Section 34-27-32, Code of Alabama 1975, is 714 amended to read as follows:

715 "\$34-27-32

(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:

(1) Is trustworthy and competent to transact the
business of a broker or salesperson in a manner that
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



729 application for licensure with Alabama, then the applicant may 730 not be issued an Alabama real estate license without the 731 approval of the commissioners.

732 (3) Is a person whose real estate license has not been 733 revoked in any state within the two years prior to application 734 for real estate licensure with Alabama. If the applicant's 735 real estate licensure revocation in any state, including 736 Alabama, is more than two years from the date of application 737 for licensure with Alabama then the applicant may not be issued an Alabama real estate license without the approval of 738 739 the commissioners.

740

(4) Is at least 19 years oldof 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 signan affidavit stating the following and in the following form:

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



757 "I hereby appoint the Executive Director or the 758 Assistant Executive Director of the Alabama Real Estate 759 Commission as my agent upon whom all disciplinary, judicial, 760 or other process or legal notices may be served. I agree that 761 any service upon my agent shall be the same as service upon me 762 and that certified copies of this appointment shall be deemed 763 sufficient evidence and shall be admitted into evidence with 764 the same force and effect as the original might be admitted. I 765 agree that any lawful process against me which is served upon 766 my agent shall be of the same legal force and validity as if 767 personally served upon me and that this appointment shall continue in effect for as long as I have any liability 768 769 remaining in the State of Alabama. I understand that my agent 770 shall, within a reasonable time after service upon him or her, 771 mail a copy of the service by certified mail, return receipt 772 requested, to me at my last known business address.

773 "I agree that I am bound by all the provisions of the 774 Alabama Real Estate License Law the same as if I were a 775 resident of the State of Alabama.

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

(b) (1)<u>a.</u> 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



785 another state, including persons who move to and become 786 residents of Alabama, shall apply for a reciprocal broker 787 license on a form prescribed by the commission.

788 b. The applicant shall submit proof that he or she has 789 a current real estate license in another state as evidenced by 790 a certificate of licensure, together with any other 791 information required by the commission. The applicant shall 792 also show proof that he or she has completed at least six 793 hours of course work in Alabama real estate which is approved 794 by the commission. Applicants for a reciprocal license shall 795 not be subject to the complete examination or temporary license requirements of Section 34-27-33, but shall pass a 796 797 reasonable written examination prepared by the commission on 798 the subject of Alabama real estate. A person who holds a 799 reciprocal license shall show proof of completion of 800 continuing education either by meeting the requirements of Section 34-27-35 or by showing proof that his or her other 801 802 state license remains active in that state.

803 <u>c.</u> The fees for issuance and renewal of a reciprocal 804 license shall be the same as those for original licenses 805 pursuant to Section 34-27-35. The recovery fund fee for 806 issuance of a reciprocal license shall be the same as for an 807 original license pursuant to Section 34-27-31.

808 (2) A person who holds a current Alabama license who
809 moves to and becomes a resident of the state shall within 10
810 days submit to the commission notice of change of address and
811 all other license status changes.

812

(c) A person who does not hold a current real estate



813 broker license in another state desiring to be a real estate 814 broker in this state shall apply for a broker'sbroker license 815 on a form prescribed by the commission which shall specify the 816 real estate office to which he or she is registered. Along 817 with the application, he or she shall submit all of the following: 818 819 (1) Proof that he or she has had an active real estate 820 salesperson's salesperson license in any state for at least 24 821 months of the 36-month period immediately preceding the date 822 of application. 823 (2) Proof that he or she is a high school graduate or 824 the equivalent. 825 (3) Proof that he or she has completed a course in real estate approved by the commission, which shall be a minimum of 826 827 60 clock hours.met all of the following requirements: a. Successfully completed a course in broker basics 828 829 approved by the commission. 830 b. Passed a license examination within 90 days after 831 completion of the broker basics course. 832 c. Within 90 days after passing the license 833 examination, successfully completed a course in professional 834 development approved by the commission. 835 (4) Any other information requested by the commission. 836 (d) A person who does not hold a current real estate 837 salesperson license in another state desiring to be a real 838 estate salesperson in this state shall apply for a salesperson'ssalesperson license with the commission on a form 839 840 prescribed by the commission which shall specify the real



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



869 maintains more than one place of business in the state, he or 870 she shall have a company or branch office license for each 871 separate location or branch office. Every application shall 872 state the location of the company or branch office and the 873 name of its qualifying broker. Each company or branch office 874 shall be under the direction and supervision of a qualifying 875 broker licensed at that address. No person may serve as 876 qualifying broker at more than one location. The qualifying 877 broker for the branch office and the qualifying broker for the company shall share equal responsibility for the real estate 878 879 activities of all licensees assigned to the branch office or 880 company. (h) (1) No person shall be a qualifying broker for more 881

(h) (1) No person shall be a qualifying broker for more than one company or for a company and on his or her own behalf unless <u>he or she meets all of the following requirements</u>:

884 (1)<u>a.</u> All companies for which he or she is and proposes 885 to be the qualifying broker consent in writing.

886 <u>(2)b.</u> He or she files a copy of the written consent 887 with the commission.

888 (3) He or she will be doing business from the same
 889 locationc. All companies for which he or she is and proposes
 890 to be the qualifying broker share the same company address.

891 (2) A person licensed under a qualifying broker may be 892 engaged by one or more companies with the same qualifying 893 broker.

894 (3) A person may utilize any office of a company under 895 which he or she is licensed.

896

(i) A company license shall become invalid on the death



897 or disability of a qualifying broker. Within 30 days after the 898 death or disability, the corporation, or the remaining 899 partners or the successor partnership, if any, may designate 900 another of its officers, members, or salespersons to apply for 901 a license as temporary qualifying broker. The person 902 designated as temporary qualifying broker shall either be a 903 broker or have been a salesperson for at least one year prior 904 to filing the application. If the application is granted, the 905 company may operate under that temporary qualifying broker for no more than six months after the death or disability of its 906 907 former qualifying broker temporary qualifying broker license is issued. Unless the company designates a fully licensed broker 908 909 as the qualifying broker within the six months, the company 910 license and all licenses under the company shall be classified 911 inactive by the commission.

(j) The commission shall require both state and 912 913 national criminal history background checks to issue a 914 license. Applicants shall submit required information and 915 fingerprints to the commission, Federal Bureau of 916 Investigation, Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, or its 917 successor, or to a fingerprint processing service that may be 918 selected by the commission for this purpose. Criminal history 919 record information shall be provided to the commission from 920 both the State of Alabama and the Federal Bureau of 921 Investigation. The commission can use the provided criminal 922 history for the determination of the qualifications and fitness of the applicant to hold a real estate license. The 923 924 applicant shall assume the cost of the criminal history check.



925 The criminal history <u>mustshall</u> be current to the issuance of 926 the license.

927 (k) The commission may charge a fee of ten dollars 928 (\$10) for furnishing any person a copy of a license, 929 certificate, or other official record of the commissioner."

930 Section 6. Section 34-27-33, Code of Alabama 1975, is 931 amended to read as follows:

932 "\$34-27-33

(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.

940 (2) Effective October 1, 2001, and thereafter, the The 941 fee for each examination and the provisions for payment and 942 forfeiture shall be as specified in the contract with the 943 independent testing agency.

944 (b) (1) Within 90 days after passing the examination, 945 the applicant shall complete a professional development course 946 approved by the commission, meet all of the requirements of 947 this chapter, and secure a qualifying broker. and meet all requirements of this chapter and the board shall Upon the 948 949 applicant doing so, the commission shall issue a temporary an 950 active-license or classify the license as inactive. (2) In order to obtain an active license, the 951

952 applicant's qualifying broker shall <u>acknowledge</u> sign and



953 submit to the commission a sworn statement that the applicant 954 is in his or her opinion honest, trustworthy, and of good 955 reputation, and that the broker accepts responsibility for the 956 actions of the salesperson as set out in Section 34-27-31. The 957 applicant's qualifying broker shall be licensed inhold an 958 <u>active</u> Alabama <u>license</u>.

959 (c) (1) On passing the examination and complying with 960 all other conditions for licensure, a temporary license 961 certificate shall be issued to the applicant. The applicant is 962 not licensed until he or she or his or her qualifying broker 963 actually receives the temporary license certificate. A 964 temporary license shall be valid only for a period of one year 965 following the first day of the month after its issuance.

966 (2)a. The holder of a temporary license shall not be 967 issued an original license until he or she has satisfactorily completed a 30-hour post-license course prescribed by the 968 969 commission submits to the commission both of the following: 970 1. Proof of successful completion of a 15-hour 971 orientation as prescribed by the commission, in the 972 applicant's real estate practice area. 973 2. A complete core competencies checklist on a form 974 prescribed by the commission and signed by the applicant's 975 qualifying broker. 976 b. If the The holder of a temporary license must 977 complete the course fails to complete and submit the 978 application for an original license with required documentation within six months90 days of after issuance of his 979



981	issued, otherwise his or her temporary license certificate
982	shall automatically be placed on inactive status by the
983	commission. During the remaining six months his or her
984	temporary license is valid, the holder of a temporary license
985	may complete the course and have his or her original license
986	issued. If the holder of a temporary license does not complete
987	the course and have his or her original license issued within
988	one year following the first day of the month after its
989	issuance, the temporary license shall automatically expire and
990	lapse. A temporary license is not subject to renewal
991	procedures in this chapter and may not be renewed.
992	(3) An inactive temporary license must be renewed at
993	the proper time if an original license has not been issued. If
994	a temporary license remains inactive for more than three
995	years, the licensee must retake the salesperson professional
996	development course prior to activating the license.
997	(3)(4) In order to have the status of an inactive a
998	temporary license issued changed to active status, the
999	applicant shall pay the Recovery Fund fee specified in this
1000	chapter. The holder of a temporary license shall, upon
1001	satisfactory completion of the course, pay the original
1002	license fee specified in this chapter to have his or her
1003	original license issued. An applicant for an original license
1004	who has paid the Recovery Fund fee specified in this chapter
1005	shall not be required to pay another Recovery Fund fee in
1006	order to have his or her original license issued.
1007	(4) The holder of an original license who has
1008	satisfactorily completed the postlicense course and whose

1009	original license has been issued, shall not be subject to the
1010	continuing education requirements in this chapter for the
1011	first renewal of his or her original license.
1012	(d) This section shall become effective for licenses
1013	issued beginning October 1, 1993."
1014	Section 7. Section 34-27-34, Code of Alabama 1975, is
1015	amended to read as follows:
1016	"\$34-27-34
1017	(a)(1) A broker may serve as qualifying broker for a
1018	salesperson or associate broker only if licensed in Alabama,
1019	his or her principal business is that of a real estate broker,
1020	and he or she shall be in a position to actually supervise the
1021	real estate activities of the associate broker or salesperson
1022	on a full-time basisA person concurrently licensed as a broker
1023	in another state who has reciprocally obtained a broker
1024	license in this state may serve as a qualifying broker over a
1025	salesperson or associate broker if he or she meets all of the
1026	following requirements:
1027	a. Real estate is his or her principal business.
1028	b. He or she is in a position to actually supervise the
1029	real estate activities of the associate broker or salesperson
1030	<u>on a full-time basis.</u>
1031	c. He or she has held an active broker license for at
1032	least 24 of the last 36 months.
1033	(2) A person licensed as a broker in this state who is
1034	not currently licensed as a broker in another state may serve
1035	as qualifying broker over a salesperson or associate broker if
1036	he or she meets all of the following requirements:



1037	a. Real estate is his or her principal business.
1038	b. He or she is in a position to actually supervise the
1039	real estate activities of the associate broker or salesperson
1040	<u>on a full-time basis.</u>
1041	c. He or she has held an active broker license for at
1042	least 24 of the last 36 months.
1043	d. He or she has attended a qualifying broker training
1044	course provided by the commission.
1045	(2)(3)a. A salesperson or associate broker shall not
1046	perform acts for which a license is required unless licensed
1047	under a qualifying broker.
1048	<u>b.</u> A qualifying broker shall be held responsible to the
1049	commission and to the public for all acts governed by this

1050 chapter of each salesperson and associate broker licensed 1051 under him or her and of each company for which he or she is 1052 the qualifying broker. It shall be the duty of the qualifying 1053 broker to see that all transactions of every licensee engaged 1054 by him or her or any company for which he or she is the 1055 qualifying broker comply with this chapter.

1056 <u>c. A Additionally, the</u> qualifying broker shall be 1057 responsible to an injured party for the damage caused by any 1058 violation of this chapter by any licensee engaged by the 1059 qualifying broker. This subsection does not relieve a licensee 1060 from liability that he or she would otherwise have.

1061 <u>(3)d.</u> The qualifying brokers'broker's supervision 1062 responsibilities, as prescribed herein, over the real estate 1063 activities of associate brokers and salespersons licensed 1064 under him or her are not intended to create, and should not be



1065 construed as creating, an employer-employee relationship 1066 contrary to any expressed intent of the qualifying broker and 1067 licensee to the contrary.

1068 (b) (1) Any salesperson or associate broker who desires 1069 to change his or her qualifying broker shall give notice in 1070 writing to the commission, and shall send a copy of the notice 1071 to his or her qualifying broker. The new qualifying broker 1072 shall file with the commission a request for the transfer and 1073 a statement assuming liability for the licensee. In order to transfer a license, the applicant's <u>new qualifying broker</u> 1074 1075 shall acknowledge to the commission that in his or her opinion the applicant is honest, trustworthy, of good reputation, and 1076 1077 that the broker accepts responsibility for the actions of the 1078 salesperson under Section 34-27-31.

1079 (2) On payment of a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25), a 1080 new license certificate shall be issued to the <u>new qualifying</u> 1081 <u>broker on behalf of the</u> salesperson or associate broker for 1082 the unexpired term of the original license. A fee of 1083 twenty-five dollars (\$25) shall also be charged for any of the 1084 following license changes:

1085 (1) a. Change of qualifying broker by a company or sole 1086 proprietorship. The fee isshall be paid for theeach license or 1087 licenses on which the current and new qualifying brokers' 1088 names appear. In cases where a company has a branch office or 1089 offices and the main office qualifying broker is changed, the 1090 fee is paid for each branch office license and for the license of each branch qualifying broker. This change must be made 1091 1092 within 30 days of the name change.



1093 (2)b. Change of personal name of a qualifying broker. 1094 Within 30 days following name change, the The fee is shall be 1095 paid for the license or licenses on which the current 1096 qualifying broker's name appears. 1097 (3)c. Change of personal name of a salesperson or 1098 associate broker. Within 30 days after the name change, the 1099 The fee is shall be paid for the license on which the name 1100 appears. 1101 (4)d. Change of business location. The fee is paid for the license or licenses on which the address appears. 1102 1103 (5)e. Change of business name. The fee is paid for the license or licenses on which the name appears. 1104 1105 (6) f. Change of license status from inactive to active. 1106 The fee is paid for each license being changed from inactive 1107 to active status. No fee is charged for the change from active 1108 to inactive status. 1109 (c) A personqualifying broker who wishes to terminate 1110 his or her status as qualifying brokerresponsibility for a 1111 licensee may do so by notifying the licensee and the 1112 commission in writing and sending the licensee's license 1113 certificate to the commission or verifying in writing to the 1114 commission that the certificate has been lost or destroyed 1115 placing the licensee's license on inactive status with the 1116 commission. 1117 (d) A personAn individual who wishes to terminate his

1117 (d) <u>A personAn individual</u> who wisnes to terminate his 1118 or her status as a qualifying broker for a company may do so 1119 by submitting written notice to the company or qualifying 1120 <u>brokerofficers</u> of the parent company and the commission.



1121 (e) A salesperson or associate broker shall not perform 1122 any act for which a license is required after his or her 1123 association with his or her qualifying broker has been 1124 terminated, or if he or she changes qualifying brokers, until 1125 a new active license has been issued by the commission." 1126 Section 8. Section 34-27-35, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows: 1127 1128 "\$34-27-35 1129 (a) The commission shall prescribe the form and content of license certificates issued. Each qualifying broker's 1130 1131 license certificate shall show the name and business address of the broker. The license certificate of each active 1132 1133 salesperson or associate broker shall show his or her name and 1134 address. The license certificate of each active salesperson or 1135 associate broker shall be delivered or mailed to his or her qualifying broker. Each license certificate shall be kept by 1136 1137 the qualifying broker and shall be publicly displayed at the

1138 address which appears on the license certificate.

(b) The commission may establish a one-year or multi-year license period.

1141 (c)(1) The fee for a temporary license shall be one 1142 hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The original fee for a 1143 broker'sbroker license shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). and, beginning with the license period effective 1144 October 1, 2002, the The renewal fee for a broker's broker 1145 license shall be seventy-five dollars (\$75) per year for each 1146 year of the license period. The original fee for each 1147 1148 salesperson license shall be sixty-five dollars



1149 (\$65) per year for each year or portion of a year remaining in 1150 the respective license period, and the renewal fee for each 1151 salesperson's salesperson license shall be sixty-five dollars 1152 (\$65) per year for each year of the license period. The 1153 original fee for each company license shall be sixty-five 1154 dollars (\$65) per year for each year or portion of a year 1155 remaining in the respective license period, and the renewal 1156 fee for each license shall be sixty-five dollars (\$65) per 1157 year for each year of the license period.

(2) Beginning with the license period effective October 1158 1159 1, 2004, the The renewal fee for a broker's broker license shall be ninety-five dollars (\$95) per year for each year of the 1160 1161 license period. The original fee for each 1162 salesperson's salesperson license shall be eighty-five dollars 1163 (\$85) per year for each year or portion of a year remaining in the respective license period, and the renewal fee for each 1164 1165 salesperson's salesperson license shall be eighty-five dollars 1166 (\$85) per year for each year of the license period. The 1167 original fee for each company license shall be eighty-five 1168 dollars (\$85) per year for each year or portion of a year 1169 remaining in the respective license period, and the renewal 1170 fee for each license shall be eighty-five dollars (\$85) per 1171 year for each year of the license period.

(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.



1177 Collection of this fee shall apply to all broker and 1178 salesperson renewals, except that brokers who hold more than 1179 one broker's broker license shall pay the fee for only one 1180 license at each renewal. (2) Beginning June 1, 2014, this fee shall be seven 1181 1182 dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50), and the The proceeds shall be 1183 distributed to the Alabama Center for Real Estate. 1184 (e) The original research and education fee shall be thirty dollars (\$30) and shall be paid at the time of all 1185 applications received on and after October 15, 1995, for 1186 1187 issuance of an original broker'sbroker license, and shall be paid at the time of all applications received on and after 1188 1189 October 15, 1995, for issuance of a temporary 1190 salesperson's salesperson license. The original research and 1191 education fee shall also be paid by reciprocal salespersons. This is in addition to the original license fees set out in 1192 this section. This thirty dollar (\$30) original research and 1193 1194 education fee is a one-time fee which no person shall be 1195 required to pay more than once.

1196 (f) The license of a salesperson who is subsequently 1197 issued a **broker's**broker license automatically terminates upon 1198 the issuance of his or her broker'sbroker license certificate. The salesperson's salesperson license certificate shall be 1199 1200 returned to the commission in order for a broker'sbroker 1201 license to be issued. No refund shall be made of any fee or 1202 Recovery Fund deposit pertaining to the salesperson's, broker's, or company'ssalesperson, broker, or company license 1203 1204 once it has been in effect.



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

(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.

1232

2 (i) Every license shall expire at midnight on September



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

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

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1261 cumulated or credited for the purpose of subsequent license 1262 renewals. The commission shall develop standards for approval 1263 of courses, and shall require certification of the course work 1264 of the applicant.

1265 Time served as a member of the state Legislature during 1266 each license renewal period shall be deemed the equivalent of 1267 the 15 hours course work and shall satisfy the requirements of 1268 this subsection.

1269 (2) This section shall apply to renewals of licenses which expire after September 30, 1986. An applicant for first 1270 1271 renewal who has been licensed for not more than one year shall not be required to comply with this section for the first 1272 1273 renewal of the applicant's license. Any licensee reaching the 1274 age of 65 on or before September 30, 2000, and having been 1275 licensed 10 years prior to that date shall be exempt from this section. 1276

1277 (3) Continuing education shall not result in a passing1278 or failing grade.

(k) A licensee may request that the commission issue his or her license toas inactive status. Inactive licenses shall be held at the commission office until activated. No act for which a license is required shall be performed under an inactive license.

1284 <u>(1) If a licensee presents a form of payment to the</u> 1285 <u>commission, or to any third party on the commission's behalf,</u> 1286 <u>which is declined or rejected by a financial institution or</u> 1287 <u>merchant service company, the licensee shall have 30 days upon</u> 1288 <u>electronic notification from the commission to submit full and</u>

valid payment for the initial fee or fine and an additional

fee for submitting the faulty payment, not to exceed the

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maximum amount allowed by Section 8-8-15. Failure to submi	t
full and valid payment within 30 days of electronic	
notification by the commission will result in the license	
becoming inactive. Failure to submit full and valid paymen	t
within six months after electronic notification by the	
commission will result in the license lapsing."	
Section 9. Section 34-27-35, Code of Alabama 1975,	is
amended to read as follows:	
"§34-27-35	
(a) The commission shall prescribe the form and con-	cent
of license certificates issued. Each qualifying broker's	
license certificate shall show the name and business addre	SS
of the broker. The license certificate of each active	
salesperson or associate broker shall show his or her name	and
address. The license certificate of each active salesperso	n or
associate broker shall be delivered or mailed to his or he	r
qualifying broker. Each license certificate shall be kept	by
the qualifying broker and shall be publicly displayed at t	he
address which appears on the license certificate.	
(b) The commission may establish a one-year or	
multi-year license period.	
(c)(1) The fee for a temporary license shall be one	
hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The original fee for a	
<pre>broker'sbroker license shall be one hundred fifty dollars</pre>	
(\$150) and, beginning with the license period effective	
October 1, 2002, the renewal fee for a broker's license sh	all
Page 47	



1317	be seventy-five dollars (\$75) per year for each year of the
1318	license period. The original fee for each salesperson's
1319	license shall be sixty-five dollars (\$65) per year for each
1320	year or portion of a year remaining in the respective license
1321	period, and the renewal fee for each salesperson's license
1322	shall be sixty-five dollars (\$65) per year for each year of
1323	the license period. The original fee for each company license
1324	shall be sixty-five dollars (\$65) per year for each year or
1325	portion of a year remaining in the respective license period,
1326	and the renewal fee for each license shall be sixty-five
1327	dollars (\$65) per year for each year of the license period.
1328	(2) Beginning with the license period effective October
1329	1, 2004, the The renewal fee for a broker's broker license shall
1330	be ninety-five dollars (\$95) per year for each year of the
1331	license period. The original fee for each
1332	<pre>salesperson'ssalesperson license shall be eighty-five dollars</pre>
1333	(\$85) per year for each year or portion of a year remaining in
1334	the respective license period, and the renewal fee for each
1335	<pre>salesperson'ssalesperson license shall be eighty-five dollars</pre>
1336	(\$85) per year for each year of the license period. The
1337	original fee for each company license shall be eighty-five
1338	dollars (\$85) per year for each year or portion of a year
1339	remaining in the respective license period, and the renewal
1340	fee for each license shall be eighty-five dollars (\$85) per
1341	year for each year of the license period.
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1342 (d) (1) The renewal research and education fee shall be 1343 twoseven dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) (\$7.50) per year for 1344 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.

1351 (2) Beginning June 1, 2014, this fee shall be seven
 1352 dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50), and the The proceeds shall be
 1353 distributed to the Alabama Center for Real Estate.

(e) The original research and education fee shall be 1354 1355 thirty dollars (\$30) and shall be paid at the time of all applications received on and after October 15, 1995, for 1356 1357 issuance of an original broker'sbroker license, and shall be 1358 paid at the time of all applications received on and after 1359 October 15, 1995, for issuance of a temporary 1360 salesperson's salesperson license. The original research and 1361 education fee shall also be paid by reciprocal salespersons. 1362 This is in addition to the original license fees set out in 1363 this section. This thirty dollar (\$30) original research and 1364 education fee is a one-time fee which no person shall be 1365 required to pay more than once.

(f) The license of a salesperson who is subsequently issued a broker'sbroker license automatically terminates upon the issuance of his or her broker'sbroker 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



1373 company'ssalesperson, broker, or company license once it has 1374 been in effect.

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

(h) The renewal form shall be mailed by the commission
to the licensee's place of business, if an active licensee, or
to his or her residence, if an inactive licensee, prior to
August 1 of the final year of each license period. Each
licensee shall notify the commission in writing of any change
in his or her business or residence address within 30 days of



1401 the change.

1402 (i) Every license shall expire at midnight on September 1403 30 of the final year of each license period, except for a 1404 temporary salesperson whose license becomes inactive 90 days 1405 after issuance or a temporary broker whose license expires six 1406 months after issuance. An expired license may be renewed during the 12-month period following the license period for 1407 1408 which the license was current. A licensee who fails to renew 1409 before the end of the 12-month period following the license period for which the license was issued has a lapsed license, 1410 1411 and shall be subject to all requirements applicable to persons who have never been licensed, however, the commission may upon 1412 1413 determination of hardship, allow later renewal upon payment of 1414 all fees and penalties. An inactive license must be renewed in 1415 the same manner as an active license.

1416 (j) (1) Each applicant for renewal of an active 1417 salesperson or broker license issued by the commission shall, 1418 on or before September 30 of the final year of each license 1419 period, submit confirm through the commission's website proof 1420 of completion of not less than 15 clockhis or her continuing 1421 education requirement hours of approved continuing education 1422 course work to the commission, in addition to any other 1423 requirements for renewal. A maximum of six one-clock-hour 1424 courses shall be accepted by the commission as part of a 1425 licensee's continuing education requirement. Failure to meet 1426 this deadline shall result in the license being placed on inactive status on the following October 1, and the license 1427 1428 shall be subject to all reactivation requirements.



(2) a. Reactivations shall be processed in the order 1429 received as evidenced by postmark or delivery date. Certified 1430 or registered mail may be used for reactivation in this case. 1431 1432 Proof of attendance at the completion of course work, whether 1433 or not the applicant attained a passing grade in the course, 1434 shall be sufficient to satisfy requirements for renewal. The 1435 15 clock hours' course work continuing education requirement 1436 shall apply to each two-year license renewal, and hours in 1437 excess of 15 shall not be cumulated or credited for the purpose of applicable to subsequent license renewals. The 1438 1439 commission shall develop standards for approval of courses, and shall require certification of the course work of the 1440 1441 applicant. No continuing education course shall be approved by the commission unless the course is at least 60 minutes of 1442 1443 instruction.

1444 <u>b.</u> Time served as a member of the state Legislature 1445 during each license renewal period shall be deemed the 1446 equivalent of the <u>15 hours course workcontinuing education</u> 1447 <u>requirement</u> and shall satisfy the requirements of this 1448 subsection.

(3) (2) This section shall apply to renewals of licenses 1449 1450 which expire after September 30, 1986. An applicant for first renewal of an original license who has been licensed for not 1451 1452 more than one year shall not be required to comply with this 1453 section for the first renewal of the applicant's license. Any licensee reaching the age of 65 on or before September 30, 1454 2000, and having been licensed 10 years prior to that date 1455 1456 shall be exempt from this section.



1457 (3)(4) Continuing education shall not result in a 1458 passing or failing grade.

(k) A licensee may request that the commission issue his or her license to in an inactive status. Inactive licenses shall be held at the commission office until activated. No act for which a license is required shall be performed under an inactive license.

1464 (1) If a licensee presents a form of payment to the 1465 commission, or to any third party on the commission's behalf, 1466 which is declined or rejected by a financial institution or 1467 merchant service company, the licensee shall have 30 days upon electronic notification from the commission to submit full and 1468 1469 valid payment for the initial fee or fine and an additional 1470 fee for submitting the faulty payment, not to exceed the 1471 maximum amount allowed by Section 8-8-15. Failure to submit 1472 full and valid payment within 30 days of electronic 1473 notification by the commission will result in the license 1474 becoming inactive. Failure to submit full and valid payment 1475 within six months after electronic notification by the 1476 commission will result in the license lapsing." 1477 Section 10. Section 34-27-36, Code of Alabama 1975, is 1478 amended to read as follows: 1479 "\$34-27-36

(a) (1) The commission or its staff may on its own, or on the verified complaint in writing of any person, investigate the actions and records of a licensee. The commission may issue subpoenas and compel the testimony of witnesses and the production of records and documents during



1485	an investigation. If probable cause is found, a formal
1486	complaint shall be filed and the commission shall hold a
1487	hearing on the formal complaint.
1488	(2) In each instance in which a person or entity
1489	engages in any of the acts described in subsection (b) or is
1490	found in violation of any of the conduct prohibited in
1491	subsection (b), the commission may impose any of the following
1492	penalties:
1493	a. Impose a fine of not less than one hundred dollars
1494	(\$100) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
1495	b. Require completion of approved education course or
1496	courses in addition to the existing continuing education
1497	requirements.
1498	c. Issue a public reprimand.
1499	d. Revoke or suspend any or all licenses held under
1500	this chapter by the person or entity The commission shall
1501	revoke or suspend the license or impose a fine of not less
1502	than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand
1503	five hundred dollars (\$2,500), or both, or reprimand the
1504	licensee in each instance in which the licensee is found
1505	guilty of any of the following acts set out in this section.
1506	The commission may revoke or suspend a license until such time
1507	as the licensee has completed an approved continuing education
1508	course <u>,</u> and/orhas made restitution to accounts containing
1509	funds to be held for other parties, or both. The commission
1510	may also stay the revocation or suspension of a license and
1511	require completion of an approved education course and/or,
1512	<u>require</u> the making of restitution to accounts containing funds



1513 to be held for other parties, or both.

1514 (b) A licensee is prohibited from doing any of the 1515 following:

(1) Procuring or attempting to procure, a license, for himself or herself or another, by fraud, misrepresentation, or deceit, or by making a material misstatement of fact in an application for a license.

(2) Engaging in misrepresentation or dishonest or
fraudulent acts when selling, buying, trading, or renting real
property of his or her own or of a spouse or child or parent.

(3) Making a material misrepresentation, or failing to
disclose to a potential purchaser or lessee any latent
structural defect or any other defect known to the licensee.
Latent structural defects and other defects do not refer to
trivial or insignificant defects but refer to those defects
that would be a significant factor to a reasonable and prudent
person in making a decision to purchase or lease.

(4) Making any false promises of a character likely to
influence, persuade, or induce any person to enter into any
contract or agreement.

(5) Pursuing a continued and flagrant course of misrepresentation or the making of false promises through agents or salespersons or any medium of advertising or otherwise.

(6) Publishing or causing to be published any
advertisement which deceives or which is likely to deceive the
public, or which in any manner tends to create a misleading



1540 impression or which fails to identify the person causing the 1541 advertisement to be placed as a licensed broker or 1542 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.

(8) a. Failing, within a reasonable time, to properly account for or remit money coming into his or her possession which belongs to others, or commingling money belonging to 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.

c. Failing to keep for at least three years a complete record of funds belonging to others showing to whom the money belongs, date deposited, date of withdrawal, and other pertinent information.

(9) Placing a sign on any property offering it forsale, 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.

(11) Paying any profit, compensation, commission, or fee to, or dividing any profit, compensation, commission, or fee with, anyone other than a licensee or multiple listing service. This subdivision shall not prevent an associate broker or salesperson from owning any lawfully constituted



business organization, including, but not limited to, a corporation or limited liability company or limited liability corporation, for the purpose of receiving payments contemplated in this subsection. The business organization shall not be required to be licensed under this chapter, and shall not engage in any other activity requiring a real estate license.

1575 (12) Paying or receiving any rebate from any person in 1576 a real estate transaction.

(13) Inducing any party to a contract to breakbreach the contract for the purpose of substituting a new contract, where the substitution is motivated by the personal gain of the licensee.

(14) If the licensee is a salesperson or associate broker, accepting a commission or other valuable consideration for performing any act for which a license is required from any person except his or her qualifying broker.

1585 (15) If the licensee is a qualifying broker or company, 1586 allowing a salesperson or associate broker licensed under him 1587 or her to advertise himself or herself as a real estate agent 1588 without the name or trade name of the qualifying broker or 1589 company appearing prominently on the advertising; or if the 1590 licensee is a salesperson or associate broker, advertising 1591 himself or herself as a real estate agent without the name or 1592 trade name of the qualifying broker or company under whom the 1593 salesperson or associate broker is licensed appearing prominently on the advertising. For purposes of this 1594 1595 subdivision, "prominently" means use of a font size that is



1596	equal to or larger in size than any other text or logo in the
1597	advertisement and situated and sized for the purpose of
1598	gaining the attention of consumers viewing the advertisement.
1599	(16) Presenting to the commission, as payment for a fee
1600	or fine, a check that is returned unpaida. Failing, as the
1601	buyer's agent, to notify the listing agent in writing within
1602	three business days in the event that the buyer has not
1603	deposited earnest money in accordance with a contract
1604	requiring the buyer to deposit escrow funds with any person or
1605	entity.
1606	b. Failing, as the listing agent, to notify his or her
1607	client immediately if no written receipt of escrow funds has
1608	been provided to the listing agent within three business days
1609	of the time specified by the contract for deposit of escrow
1610	<u>funds</u> .
1611	(17) Establishing an association, by employment or
1612	otherwise, with an unlicensed person who is expected or
1613	required to act as a licensee, or aiding, abetting, or
1614	conspiring with a person to circumvent the requirements of
1615	this chapter.
1616	(18) Failing to disclose to an owner the licensee's
1617	intention to acquire, directly or indirectly, an interest in
1618	property which he or she or his or her associates have been
1619	employed to sell.

1620 (19) Violating or disregarding any provision of this1621 chapter or any rule, regulation, or order of the commission.

1622 (20) If a broker, accepting accepts a "net listing"
1623 agreement for sale of real property or any interest therein. A



1624 "net listing" is one that stipulates a net price to be 1625 received by the owner with the excess due to be received by 1626 the broker as his or her commission.

1627 (21) Misrepresenting or failing to disclose to any 1628 lender, guaranteeing agency, or any other interested party, 1629 the true terms of a sale of real estate.

1630 (22) Failing to inform the buyer or seller at the time 1631 an offer is presented that he or she will be expected to pay 1632 certain closing costs and the approximate amount of those 1633 costs.

1634 (23)a. Having entered a plea of guilty or nolo
1635 contendere to, or having been found guilty of or convicted of
1636 a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude.

b. Having a final money judgment rendered against him or her which results from an act or omission occurring in the pursuit of his or her real estate business or involves the goodwill of an existing real estate business.

1641 (24) Offering free lots or conducting lotteries for the 1642 purpose of influencing a party to purchase or lease real 1643 estate.

1644 (25)<u>a.</u> Failing to <u>include a fixed date of expiration in</u>
1645 <u>a written listing agreement or failing to</u> leave a copy of the
1646 <u>written residential listing agreement or written residential</u>
1647 <u>property management</u> agreement with the principal.
1648 b. Failing to include a fixed date of expiration, not

1649 to exceed one year from the date of commencement, in a written

1650 residential listing agreement.

1651 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.

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

1678 that the holder of the equitable interest is not the deed

1679 holder of the property and is only offering to sell or assign



- 1680 his or her equitable interest; or
- 1681 b. Failing to disclose in writing to a seller both of 1682 the following:
- 1683 <u>1. The intent to assign an equitable interest in the</u> 1684 <u>seller's real estate prior to offering to assign the interest.</u> 1685 <u>2. The assignment of the interest within three calendar</u> 1686 days following the assignment.
- 1687 (b) (c) If it appears that a person, <u>firm, corporation</u>, 1688 or any business entity has engaged, or is about to engage, in 1689 an act or practice constituting a violation of Article 1 or 2 1690 of this chapter or any rule or order of the commission, the commission, through the Attorney General, may institute legal 1691 1692 actions to enjoin the act or practice and to enforce 1693 compliance with Articles 1 and 2 of this chapter or any rule 1694 or order of the commission. To prevail in an action, it shall not be necessary to allege or prove either that an adequate 1695 remedy at law does not exist or that substantial or 1696 1697 irreparable damage would result from the continued violation.
- 1698 (c) (d) (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, 1699 the commission may issue an order requiring any accused 1700 person, firm, corporation, or business entity to cease and 1701 desist from engaging in activities requiring a license under 1702 this chapter when the accused person, firm, corporation, or 1703 business entity is not licensed under this chapter. The order 1704 shall be entered by the executive director after a finding of 1705 probable cause by the commission staff. The order shall become final 15 days after its service upon the accused, unless the 1706 1707 accused requests a hearing before the commission. Upon hearing



1708 the case and finding violations, the commission may make the 1709 cease and desist order final and the commission may impose a 1710 fine for each violation in an amount consistent with the range 1711 of fines applicable to licensees, and in addition, may impose 1712 a fine in the amount of any gain or economic benefit that was 1713 derived from the violation, and in addition, may impose a fine 1714 in the amount of the commission's costs incurred. Any fines 1715 not paid as ordered shall be enforceable in any court with 1716 competent jurisdiction and proper venue.

1717 (2) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the 1718 commission may decline to issue an order requiring any accused person, firm, corporation, or business entity to cease and 1719 1720 desist from engaging in activities requiring a license under 1721 this chapter when the accused person, firm, corporation, or 1722 business entity is not licensed under this chapter. In this instance, the commission shall proceed to give appropriate 1723 1724 notice of the violations and hold a hearing thereon. Upon 1725 hearing the case and finding violations, the commission may 1726 impose a fine for each violation in an amount consistent with 1727 the range of fines applicable to licensees, and in addition, 1728 may impose a fine in the amount of any gain or economic 1729 benefit that was derived from the violation, and in addition, 1730 may impose a fine in the amount of the commission's costs 1731 incurred. Any fine or fines not paid as ordered shall be 1732 enforceable in any court with competent jurisdiction and 1733 proper venue.

1734 (d) (e) The commission shall notify the licensee and 1735 qualifying broker in writing regarding the complaint.



1736 (c) (f) The commission shall notify the complainant, 1737 licensee, and qualifying broker in writing regarding the 1738 disposition of the complaint." 1739 Section 11. Section 34-27-39 is added to the Code of 1740 Alabama 1975, to read as follows: 1741 \$34-27-39 1742 (a) No licensee shall advertise or market as a team, 1743 group, or other affiliation unless actively licensed as a team 1744 by the commission. 1745 (b) The leader of any licensed team shall at a minimum 1746 be a licensed Alabama associate broker. 1747 (c) A broker wishing to license a team must complete 1748 the team license application established by the commission. 1749 The application must be authorized by the leader of the 1750 proposed team and the team leader's qualifying broker. The 1751 application must include the name and license number of all 1752 licensees that will initially be a member of the team. 1753 (d) The commission may establish a one-year or 1754 multi-year team license period. 1755 (e) The original fee for each team license shall be one 1756 hundred dollars (\$100) per year or portion of a year remaining

1757 in the respective license period, and the renewal fee for each 1758 team license shall be one hundred dollars (\$100) per year for 1759 each year of the license period. Team licenses must be renewed 1760 by September 30 of the final year of a licensing period, or 1761 the team shall be inactivated and subject to reactivation 1762 requirements. The fee to reactivate a team shall be fifty 1763 dollars (\$50).



(f) To dissolve a team, the request must be made as prescribed by the commission and approved by the team leader and the team leader's qualifying broker.

(g) To change the name of a team, the fee shall be fifty dollars (\$50), and the request must be made as prescribed by the commission and approved by the team leader and the team leader's qualifying broker.

(h) To add or remove a member from a team, the fee shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25) per member who is added or removed. The request must be made as prescribed by the commission and approved by the team leader and the team leader's qualifying broker.

(i) The team leader, the team leader's qualifying
broker, and the company's qualifying broker are all
responsible for supervising team members.

(j) The team leader and the team leader's qualifying broker are responsible for notifying the team members if a team member is removed from a team or the team is dissolved or inactivated.

(k) No person shall be a member on more than onelicensed team.

(1) The commission shall adopt rules addressing teams and what words may or may not be used in a team name and how teams may advertise and market.

 1788
 Section 12. Sections 34-27-81, 34-27-82, 34-27-83,

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 34-27-84, 34-27-85, and 34-27-86, Code of Alabama 1975, are

 1790
 amended to read as follows:

1791 "\$34-27-81



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

(1) AGENCY AGREEMENT. A written agreement between a
broker and a client which creates a fiduciary relationship
between the broker and a principal, who is commonly referred
to as a client consumer.

1798 (2) BROKER. Any person licensed as a real estate broker1799 pursuant to Articles 1 and 2 of this chapter.

1800 (3) BROKERAGE AGREEMENT. A specific written agreement
1801 between a brokerage firmreal estate company and a consumer
1802 which establishes a brokerage relationship. The brokerage
1803 agreement shall contain a statement of the terms and
1804 conditions of the brokerage services to be provided.

(4) BROKERAGE SERVICE. Any service, except for rental or property management services, provided by a broker or licensee to another person and includes all activities for which a real estate license is required under Articles 1 and 2 of this chapter.

1810 (5) CONSUMER. A person who obtains information, advice,
1811 or services concerning real estate from a real estate
1812 licenseeCLIENT. A person who has an agency agreement with a
1813 broker for brokerage service, whether he or she is buyer or
1814 seller.

1815 (6) CLIENT. A person who has an agency agreement with a
1816 broker for brokerage service, whether he or she be buyer or
1817 sellerCONSUMER. A person who obtains information, advice, or
1818 services concerning real estate from a real estate licensee.
1819 (7) CUSTOMER. A person who is provided brokerage



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



1848 with the written informed consent of all parties to a

1849 contemplated real estate transaction, is engaged as an agent

1850 for both the buyer and seller. Circumstances which establish

1851 dual agency include, but are not limited to, one of the

1852 following:

1853a. When two or more licensees licensed under the same1854broker each represent a different party to the transaction.1855b. When one licensee represents both the buyer and

1856 seller in a real estate transaction.

1857 (12) (13) MATERIAL FACT. A fact that is of significance 1858 to a reasonable party which affects the party's decision to 1859 enter into a real estate contract.

1860 (13) (14) QUALIFYING BROKER. A broker under whom a 1861 corporation, partnership, branch office, or lawfully 1862 constituted business organization, as the Legislature may from 1863 time to time provide, is licensed, or a broker licensed to do 1864 business as a sole proprietorship who is responsible for 1865 supervising the acts of the company, or proprietorship and all 1866 real estate licensees licensed therewith.

1867 (14)(15) REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION. The purchase, sale, 1868 lease and rental, option, or exchange of an interest in real 1869 estate.

1870 (15) (16) SINGLE AGENT. A licensee who has an agency 1871 agreement and is engaged by and represents only one party in a 1872 real estate transaction. A single agent includes, but is not 1873 limited to, onemay be only one of the following:

a. Buyer's agent, which means a broker or licensee whois engaged by and represents only the buyer in a real estate



1876 transaction.

b. Seller's agent, which means a broker or licensee who is engaged by and represents only the seller in a real estate transaction.

1880 (16) SUB-AGENT. A licensee who is empowered to act for 1881 another broker in performing real estate brokerage tasks for a 1882 principal, and who owes the same duties to the principal as 1883 the agent of the principal.

1884 (17) TRANSACTION BROKERFACILITATOR. The term has the 1885 same meaning as "Transaction Broker" provided in Act 98-618. 1886 The term also includes aA licensee who assists one or more 1887 parties in a contemplated real estate transaction without 1888 being an agent or fiduciary or advocate for the interest of 1889 that party to a transaction."

1890 "\$34-27-82

(a) When engaged in any real estate transaction, the
 licensee may act as a single agent, sub-agent, a limited
 consensual dual agent, or as a transaction brokerfacilitator.

1894 (b) At the initial contact between a licensee and the 1895 consumer and until such time a brokerlicensee enters into a 1896 specific written agreement to establish an agency relationship 1897 with one or more of the parties to a transaction, the licensee 1898 shall be considered a transaction facilitator and not be 1899 considered an agent of that consumer. An agency relationship 1900 shall not be assumed, implied, or created without a written 1901 bilateral agreement signed by the licensee and the consumer establishing the terms of the agency relationship. 1902

1903

(c) As soon as reasonably possible and before any



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

(d) A licensee shall not be required to comply with the 1919 1920 provisions of subsection (c) when engaged in transactions with 1921 any corporation, non-profit nonprofit corporation, professional 1922 corporation, professional association, limited liability 1923 company, partnership, any partnership created under the 1924 Uniform Partnership Act (commencing at Section 10-8A-101), 1925 real estate investment trust, business trust, charitable 1926 trust, family trust, or any governmental entity in 1927 transactions involving real estate.

(e) After disclosure, the consumer may make an
affirmative election of a specific type of brokerage
arrangementservice that is available from the real estate
brokerage company. The brokerage agreement shall contain a



1932 statement of the terms and conditions of the brokerage 1933 services that the <u>brokercompany</u> will provide. In the absence 1934 of a signed brokerage agreement between the parties, the 1935 transaction <u>brokeragefacilitator</u> relationship shall remain in 1936 effect.

1937 (f) When serving as a transaction broker facilitator, 1938 the duties of the licensee to all the parties to a real estate 1939 transaction are limited to those which are enumerated in 1940 Section 34-27-84. A signed brokerage agreement between the parties or, in the absence of a signed brokerage agreement, 1941 1942 the continuation of the transaction brokeragefacilitator 1943 relationship, shall constitute informed consent by the consumer as to the services the consumer shall receive from 1944 1945 the broker.

(g) Disclosure forms shall be provided to buyers and
sellers. All real estate brokerage firmscompanies operating
within the State of Alabama shall use the same agency
disclosure forms. Disclosure forms describing the alternative
types of brokerage services identified above shall be written
by the Alabama Real Estate Commission.

1952(h) Each offer to purchase shall prominently display a1953representation disclosure clause in the following form,

1954 completed and initialed as indicated:

- 1955 The listing licensee, , is:
- 1956 \Box An agent of the seller.
- 1957 🗆 A dual agent.
- 1958

 Assisting the seller as a transaction facilitator.
- 1959 The selling licensee, , is:



1960 □ An agent of the buyer.

1961 🗆 A dual agent.

1963 (h) (i) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the 1964 consumer from entering into a written contract with a 1965 <u>qualifying</u> broker which contains provisions for services not 1966 specifically identified in the written disclosure form."

1967 "\$34-27-83

1968 Any <u>qualifying</u> broker acting in a real estate 1969 transaction shall adopt a written agency disclosure office 1970 policy which specifically enumerates the types of brokerage 1971 <u>service arrangements services</u> a licensee may offer or accept.

(a) The qualifying broker for each brokeragereal 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> disclosure office policy statement and a satisfactory explanation of its contents shall be signed by each licensee and a copy retained by the <u>brokeragereal estate</u> company for three years."

1982 "\$34-27-84

1983 (a) Licensees shall have all of the following1984 obligations to all parties in a real estate transaction:

1985 (1) To provide brokerage services to all parties to the 1986 transaction honestly and in good faith.

1987 (2) To exercise reasonable skill and care in providing



1988 brokerage services to all parties.

1989 (3) To keep confidential any information given to the 1990 licensee in confidence, or any information obtained by the 1991 licensee that the licensee knows a reasonable individual would 1992 want to keep confidential, unless disclosure of this 1993 information is required by law, violates a fiduciary duty to a 1994 client, becomes public knowledge, or is authorized by the 1995 party in writing, or the information becomes public knowledge, 1996 or the failure to disclose the information violates a 1997 fiduciary duty to a client.

(4) To account for all property coming into the
possession of the licensee that belongs to any party to the
real estate transaction.

(5) When assisting a party in the negotiation of a real estate transaction, to present all written offers in a timely and truthful manner.

(6) To act on behalf of the licensee or his or her
immediate family, or on behalf of any other individual,
organization, or business entity in which the licensee has a
personal interest only with prior timely written disclosure of
this interest to all parties to the transaction.

(b) A licensee may provide requested information which affects a transaction to any party who requests the information, unless disclosure of the information is prohibited by law or in this article.

2013 (c) When accepting an agreement to list an owner's 2014 property for sale, the broker or his or her licensee shall, at 2015 a minimum, accept delivery of and present to the consumer all



offers, counteroffers, and addenda to assist the consumer in 2016 2017 negotiating offers, counteroffers, and addenda, and to answer 2018 the consumer's questions relating to the transaction." 2019 "\$34-27-85 2020 (a) In addition to the duties enumerated in Section 2021 34-27-84, a licensee shall provide all of the following 2022 services to clients: 2023 (1) Loyally represent the best interests of the client 2024 by placing the interests of the client ahead of the interests 2025 of any other party, unless loyalty to a client violates the 2026 duties of the licensee to other parties under Section 2027 34-27-84, or is otherwise prohibited by law. 2028 (2) Disclose to the client all information known by the licensee that is material to the transaction and not 2029 2030 discoverable by the client through reasonable investigation and observation, except for confidential information as 2031 2032 provided in subdivision (a) (3) of subsection (a) of Section 2033 34-27-84. A licensee shall have no affirmative duty to 2034 discover the information.

(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 broker<u>licensee</u> 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.



2044 (c) A <u>brokerlicensee</u> may provide brokerage services as 2045 a <u>limited consensual</u> dual agent only with the prior written, 2046 informed consent of all clients of the <u>brokerlicensee</u> in the 2047 transaction."

2048 "\$34-27-86

(a) A client is not liable for a misrepresentation made by a brokerlicensee in connection with the brokerlicensee providing brokerage services unless the client knows or should have known of the misrepresentation or the brokerlicensee is repeating a misrepresentation made by the client to the brokerlicensee.

(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 13. Sections 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, and 12 shall become effective on October 1, 2024; Sections 5, 6, 9, and 11 shall become effective on October 1, 2026, and shall apply to licenses issued or renewed on or after that date; and Section 2065 2 shall become effective on October 1, 2027, and shall apply to licenses issued or renewed on or after that date.