

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

As Engrossed: S2/14/13
A Bill

SENATE BILL 293

By: Senators D. Johnson, *Files*
By: Representatives Dale, *Biviano*

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CLARIFY EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR REAL
ESTATE LICENSES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CLARIFY EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
REAL ESTATE LICENSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-42-303(a)(1), concerning education hours for real estate brokers, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The Arkansas Real Estate Commission shall establish ~~educational~~ education requirements for licensure, including the standards and procedures for approval of ~~educational~~ education programs, subject to the following conditions:

(1)(A) The ~~maximum number of educational~~ most education hours to be required of an applicant for a broker's license shall not exceed one hundred twenty (120) hours within the thirty-six (36) months immediately preceding the date of application; ~~and~~.

(B) Effective on May 1, 2014, an applicant for a broker's license shall complete at least forty-five (45) of the required education hours in a course developed by the commission; and

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-42-307 is amended to read as follows:
17-42-307. Expiration and renewal.

(a) Every license, ~~both active and inactive,~~ shall expire on a date



established by the Arkansas Real Estate Commission.

(b)(1) A broker or salesperson shall complete annually:

(A) Six (6) classroom hours of continuing education;

(B) The distance education equivalent of continuing education; or

(C) A course that the commission has determined to demonstrate mastery of an acceptable real estate subject.

(2) A licensee who satisfies subdivision (b)(1) of this section completes the continuing education requirements for the licensing year.

(3) If a licensee files for renewal of a license but fails to provide proof of continuing education, the licensee's license is inactive until proof is provided to the commission.

(c)(1) To renew or reactivate a license, a licensee shall complete:

(A) Six (6) classroom hours of continuing education; or

(B) The distance education equivalent of continuing education for each inactive year. The total continuing education shall not exceed thirty (30) hours under this subdivision (c)(1).

(2) An inactive license is not subject to the education requirements of this section.

(3) The commission may waive all or part of the requirements of subdivision (c)(1) if a licensee is unable to complete the continuing education due to extenuating circumstances.

~~(b)~~ (d)(1) For each active licensee, the commission shall issue a new license for each ensuing renewal period in the absence of ~~any~~ a reason or condition that ~~might~~ may warrant the refusal of a license, upon receipt of ~~a~~ the:

(A) ~~written~~ Written request for license renewal at least no later than ninety (90) days ~~prior to~~ before the expiration of the license upon forms provided by the commission ~~together with; and~~

(B) ~~with the renewal~~ Renewal fee.

(2)(A) ~~For any~~ A broker or salesperson who does not wish to engage in the real estate business, may renew the a license ~~shall be renewed~~ on inactive status, in the absence of ~~any~~ a reason or condition that ~~might~~ may warrant the refusal of a license, upon receipt of the:

(1) ~~written~~ Written request of the applicant ~~no later than~~ at least ninety (90) days ~~prior to~~ before the expiration of the license upon

forms provided by the commission ~~together; and~~

~~(2) with the renewal~~ Renewal fee.

(B) ~~However, the~~ The commission may limit the number of renewal periods in which a license may be renewed on inactive status.

(C) The renewal fee for inactive status ~~shall be~~ is the same as for renewal of an active license.

(3) An application for renewal filed after the date established by the commission to renew a license ~~shall be~~ is treated as an application to renew an expired license.

~~(e)~~ (e) If ~~any a~~ person to whom a valid license has been issued permits the license to expire for a period not in excess of that established by the commission, the commission shall issue to the person a current license without requiring the person to submit to ~~any an~~ examination if the person furnishes ~~such information as the commission requires~~ the information required by the commission, including proof of completion of appropriate continuing education requirements, and pays ~~such the~~ the fee required by ~~as~~ the commission ~~requires~~.

~~(d)~~ (f)(1) New salesperson and broker licensees shall complete post-licensure education ~~in accordance with~~ under § 17-42-303(c).

(2) If the licensee fails to complete the post-licensure education requirements within twelve (12) months after the date the license was issued, the commission shall place the license on inactive status until the commission receives documentation that the licensee has completed the post-licensure education requirements.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 42, Subchapter 5, is amended to read as follows:

17-42-501. ~~Renewal or reactivation requirements~~ Real estate education program.

~~(a) As a condition precedent to renewal or activation of licenses, licensees shall meet the following requirements:~~

~~(1)(A) Licensees on inactive status are not required to comply with this subchapter during their inactive status.~~

~~(B) Prior to activation of a license on inactive status, the licensee shall satisfactorily complete six (6) classroom hours or equivalent continuing education units or equivalent correspondence work of~~

~~continuing education for each year inactive not to exceed thirty (30) classroom hours. However, that will satisfy the requirements only for that particular license year and not for the following license year;~~

~~(2)(A)(i) Persons licensed as real estate brokers or salespersons shall successfully complete annually six (6) classroom hours or equivalent continuing education units or equivalent distance education of continuing education or a course that the Arkansas Real Estate Commission has determined demonstrates a mastery of an acceptable real estate subject.~~

~~(ii) No more than one (1) hour or equivalent continuing education unit shall be in a specific topic or topics as identified by the commission in § 17-42-502.~~

~~(B) Those persons shall be deemed to have successfully completed the continuing education requirements for the licensing year following the year in which first licensed in Arkansas; and~~

~~(3) A nonresident licensee may meet the Arkansas continuing education requirements by taking courses which meet the continuing education requirements of his or her resident state for the licensing year in question, provided that:~~

~~(A) The course or courses consist of no fewer than six (6) classroom hours or equivalent continuing education units of real estate-related subjects and otherwise comply with the minimum requirements of this subchapter; and~~

~~(B) Evidence of such compliance satisfactory to the commission is submitted in form, manner, and content prescribed by the commission.~~

~~(b) The commission may waive all or part of the requirements of subsection (a) of this section for any licensee who submits satisfactory evidence of inability to meet the continuing education requirements due to health reasons or other hardship or extenuating circumstances beyond the licensee's control.~~

~~(c) Licenses for persons who apply for renewal of their licenses and who do not provide to the commission evidence of meeting the continuing education requirements but who have otherwise met all requirements for license renewal shall be placed on inactive status until the evidence is provided to the commission. The Arkansas Real Estate Commission shall establish an education program for real estate licensees to ensure that~~

education is available and accessible to an applicant or a licensee. The education program is intended to fulfill the education requirements for a real estate license and to provide real estate courses intended to fulfill the education requirements for a real estate license.

17-42-502. Curriculum Definitions.

~~(a)(1) The Arkansas Real Estate Commission may establish the continuing education curriculum by identifying subject matter topics.~~

~~(2) The commission may identify a specific topic or topics of not more than one (1) hour to be included in the six classroom hour annual continuing education requirement.~~

~~(3) The commission shall not require licensees to complete specific courses within the subject matter topics.~~

~~(4) Changes in the curriculum shall be applicable beginning with the license renewal period subsequent to the curriculum change.~~

~~(b) The State Board of Private Career Education shall approve continuing education courses and may approve only those continuing education courses which meet the criteria prescribed by the commission. In establishing such criteria, the commission shall give due consideration to the advice and recommendations of the board.~~

~~(c) The board shall determine the classroom hour equivalency of correspondence courses.~~

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Accredited college or university" means a state-supported institution of higher education or a nonpublic, not-for-profit college or university currently incorporated and recognized by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board as an Arkansas independent institution of higher education operating under the applicable laws of this state;

(2) "Administrator" means a person employed by a real estate trade or professional association licensed by the Arkansas Real Estate Commission;

(3) "Approved course" means a course of instruction approved by the commission that satisfies the education requirements for prelicense education, postlicense education, or continuing education for a real estate license;

(4) "Associate instructor" means a person who is licensed by the

commission to teach real estate courses while under the supervision of an administrator or principal instructor that satisfy the education requirements for a real estate license;

(5) "Association license" means a license granted by the commission to a real estate trade or professional association offering approved education that satisfies education requirements for a real estate license;

(6) "Branch school" means a school affiliated with a main school to which the commission has issued a school license;

(7) "Classroom course" means a real estate course that:

(A) Is presented at a facility in person by an instructor and attended in person by the student; or

(B) Connects by contemporaneous, two-way audio and visual technology an instructor and a student who are separated by distance;

(8) "Distance education" means a real estate course that is delivered through an electronic medium that allows the instructor and student to be separated by both distance and time;

(9) "Guest speaker" means a person who is not licensed by the commission who teaches a part of a course approved by the commission;

(10) "Instructional site" means a physical place where education courses approved by the commission are conducted apart from the main school or branch school;

(11) "Main school" means an institution or organization that is the primary school location to which the commission has issued a school license;

(12) "Nonqualified offering" means a course in real estate education that has not been approved by the commission but is offered to persons intending to apply for a real estate license;

(13) "Postlicense education" means real estate education required to be successfully completed within a time frame established by the commission after a real estate license is issued;

(14) "Prelicense education" means real estate education required to be successfully completed by an applicant before sitting for the examination for a broker or salesperson license;

(15)(A) "Principal instructor" means a person who is licensed by the commission for each licensed school that is responsible for the education

courses at a main school and the acts necessary to comply with this subchapter and rules enacted by the commission.

(B) A principal instructor may:

(i) Contract with or employ an associate instructor or guest speaker;

(ii) Supervise an associate instructor or guest speaker;

(iii) Submit an education course to the commission for approval;

(iv) Advertise as being engaged in the business of offering real estate education courses; and

(v) Charge tuition and fees for real estate education courses;

(16) "Satisfactory completion" means, as determined by a principal instructor, successful completion of a required course that is approved by the commission;

(17) "School license" means a license granted by the commission to a proprietary education institution offering education courses approved by the commission that fulfill mandatory education requirements for attaining or maintaining a real estate license; and

(18) "Student" means an applicant or licensee who attends real estate education courses approved by the commission.

17-42-503. ~~Nonqualifying courses or events~~ Exemptions.

~~(a) The following do not qualify as continuing education~~ The licensing requirements of this subchapter do not apply to:

~~(1) Courses of instruction designed to prepare a student for passing the real estate broker or salesperson examinations, except as provided in § 17-42-501(a)~~ The National Association of Realtors, the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, or other associated entities if each association identifies an administrator;

~~(2) Sales promotions or other meetings held in conjunction with the general business of the licensee~~ An accredited college or university; and
or

~~(3) Time devoted to breakfasts, luncheons, and dinners~~ An instructor associated with an entity listed in subdivision (a)(1) or (2) of

this section if the course is developed by or for those specific entities.

~~(b) The same course may not be used to meet the continuing education requirement two (2) times during the same license year. The requirement for course approval by the Arkansas Real Estate Commission under this subchapter does not apply to:~~

(1) A classroom course in a real estate-related subject identified by the commission as an approved topic if it is offered by the National Association of Realtors, the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, or other associated entities;

(2) A course of at least three (3) semester hours or equivalent in a real estate subject that is approved by the commission and offered by an accredited college or university;

(3) A course in a real estate-related subject offered by the commission;

(4) A course or a conference in a real estate-related subject approved by the commission and offered annually on a limited basis in Arkansas; or

(5) A course that is not used to fulfill the education requirements of this subchapter for attaining a real estate license.

17-42-504. Qualifying courses Requirements – Mandatory real estate education.

~~The following courses and their instructors are not required to obtain the approval of the State Board of Private Career Education in order to qualify as continuing education courses in this subchapter:~~

~~(1) Courses in real estate-related subjects offered by the National Association of Realtors, the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, or their societies, institutes, or councils;~~

~~(2) Courses in real estate-related subjects offered or approved by the Arkansas Real Estate Commission; and~~

~~(3) Courses of at least three (3) semester hours or equivalent in real estate subjects acceptable to the commission offered by colleges or universities.~~

(a) A person shall not practice as a provider of real estate education for real estate licensure unless the person holds a real estate license under this subchapter.

(b) A person or school shall not represent that an offered real estate course satisfies the education requirements for real estate licensure unless the course is approved by the Arkansas Real Estate Commission.

(c)(1) It is a violation of this subchapter to fail to obtain:

(A) A license to practice as a provider of real estate education for real estate licensure; or

(B) Approval for a real estate education course by the commission.

(2) A real estate education course offered in violation of this subchapter is a nonqualified offering.

17-42-505. ~~Instructor credentials~~ Civil penalties – Jurisdiction.

~~(a) Except as provided in this subchapter, instructors in continuing education courses shall file credentials with the State Board of Private Career Education showing the necessary specialized preparation, training, and experience to ensure competent and qualified instruction. If after notice and a hearing under this subchapter and the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq., the Arkansas Real Estate Commission finds that a person has offered a nonqualified offering, the commission may impose a civil penalty of no more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and assess costs against the person.~~

~~(b) The board will prescribe instructor qualification credentials and education requirements based upon advice and recommendation of the Arkansas Real Estate Commission. The fact that a person offers to provide or provides a course offering without the appropriate license or course approval from the commission is prima facie evidence that the person is offering a nonqualified offering.~~

(c) In addition to civil penalties imposed under this section, the commission may require a person who offered a nonqualified offering to reimburse compensation, fees, or other remuneration collected for the nonqualified offering.

17-42-506. ~~Credit—Certificate of attendance~~ Powers and duties.

~~(a) Credit shall be earned on the basis of attendance~~ The Arkansas Real Estate Commission may adopt rules as necessary to implement this subchapter.

~~(b)(1) A certificate of attendance which states the name of the student, the name of the school or sponsor of the course, the date the course was completed, the number of classroom hours of instruction covered by the individual course, and such other information as the Arkansas Real Estate Commission may require shall be presented to each attendee upon completion of the course.~~

~~(2) No certificate of attendance shall be issued to a licensee who is absent for more than ten percent (10%) of the classroom hours.~~

~~(3) Either a copy of the certificate or other proof of satisfactory completion of the course acceptable to the commission shall be furnished to the commission by the licensee.~~

~~(4) It is the licensee's responsibility to establish his or her successful completion of a continuing education course. The commission shall license, approve, and regulate schools, associations, principal instructors, and associate instructors offering commission-approved prelicense, postlicense, and continuing education courses offered to satisfy education requirements for real estate licensure.~~

(c) The commission shall establish the licensing or education requirements for:

(1) A school or association that applies for a license to offer real estate courses that satisfy the education requirements for real estate licensure;

(2) Principal and associate instructors of courses approved by the commission;

(3) Courses that satisfy the education requirements for applicants for real estate licensure and licensees; and

(4) Guest speakers of courses approved by the commission.

(d) The commission shall:

(1) Establish procedural guidelines for licensed schools and their locations and those providing real estate education designed for students to meet the education requirements for a real estate license;

(2) Charge fees and pay the necessary expenses to develop, approve, sponsor, contract for, or conduct real estate courses and seminars for real estate licensees or instructors of real estate education;

(3) Maintain in electronic format a list of the names of real estate schools, associations, administrators, instructors, and courses

approved under this subchapter;

(4) Publish in electronic format the names of the persons, associations, or schools that have been sanctioned by formal hearing or consent order under this subchapter;

(5) Periodically monitor courses offered or taught by the licensed schools and instructors; and

(6) Establish course requirements with respect to:

(A) Accessibility;

(B) Attendance;

(C) Satisfactory completion; and

(4) Curricula.

17-42-507. ~~Monitoring courses~~ Disposition of funds.

The Arkansas Real Estate Commission or its designee is authorized to attend and monitor any courses of instruction offered or to be offered as meeting the requirements of this chapter Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, the fees, charges, fines, and penalties collected by the Arkansas Real Estate Commission under this subchapter are deposited into the Arkansas Real Estate Commission Fund and spent under § 17-42-204.

17-42-508. Subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum.

The Arkansas Real Estate Commission may issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum with both its investigations and hearings of persons, entities, and courses under § 17-42-205.

17-42-509. Issuance or denial of license.

(a) The Arkansas Real Estate Commission shall issue a license to an applicant instructor of real estate education who:

(1) Is twenty-one (21) years of age or older;

(2) Has successfully completed the real estate education requirements under this subchapter;

(3) Has sufficient experience as determined by the commission;

(4) Has no record of unprofessional conduct; and

(5) Shows evidence of a reputation of honesty, trustworthiness, and integrity sufficient to safeguard the interest of the public.

(b) The commission shall determine what constitutes proof of meeting

the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) A person or entity shall not be issued a license under this subchapter if:

(1) The person or entity has had a real estate or other professional or occupational license suspended or revoked for disciplinary reasons;

(2) The person has been refused a renewal of a license issued by this state or any other jurisdiction;

(3) The person or entity has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of a felony or misdemeanor involving fraud, misrepresentation, or dishonest or dishonorable dealing in a court of competent jurisdiction; or

(4) The person or entity fails to pay the appropriate fees.

(d)(1) Subsection (c) of this section may be waived by the commission on request of an affected applicant for licensure.

(2) Circumstances for which a waiver may be granted include:

(A) The applicant's age at the time the action occurred;

(B) The circumstances surrounding the action;

(C) The length of time since the action;

(D) Work history;

(E) Employment references;

(F) Character references; and

(G) Other evidence demonstrating that the applicant does not pose a threat to the public.

17-42-510. Education fees.

(a) The Arkansas Real Estate Commission may charge and collect the following fees annually:

(1) An original license fee for each main school not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500);

(2) An original license fee for each branch of a main school not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300);

(3) A renewal fee for each main school not to exceed four hundred dollars (\$400);

(4) A renewal fee for each branch of a main school not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200);

(5) An administrator license application fee not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200);

(6) An administrator renewal fee not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100);

(7) A principal instructor license application fee not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250);

(8) A principal instructor license renewal fee not to exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150);

(9) An associate instructor license application fee not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200);

(10) An associate instructor license renewal fee not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100);

(11) A license amendment fee not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100);

(12) A license reissuance fee not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00);

(13) A course approval fee not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) for each approved course;

(14) A course approval renewal fee not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each approved course;

(15) A late renewal fee for a license or course approval not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250); and

(16) An appeal of the dismissal of a complaint by the Executive Director of the Arkansas Real Estate Commission, a filing fee not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100).

(b) Except for the fees for course approval and course approval renewal, state agencies and full-time accredited college or university instructors are exempt from the fees in this subchapter.

17-42-511. License application procedure.

(a) Applications for licensure are submitted on forms provided by the Arkansas Real Estate Commission.

(b) An applicant for licensure shall pay the fees required under this subchapter.

(c) An applicant for licensure or course approval shall furnish contact information on forms provided by the commission.

(d)(1) An applicant, administrator, or licensee is required to maintain current contact information with the commission.

(2) Contact information includes physical and mailing addresses, home and business telephone numbers, and home and business email.

17-42-512. Term of license.

(a) A license is issued for a term of one (1) year.

(b)(1) The Arkansas Real Estate Commission shall issue approval for renewal of a license in the absence of a reason or condition that may warrant the refusal of the renewal on receipt of a renewal request thirty (30) days before the expiration of the license.

(2) A late fee applies to applications received after the renewal deadline.

(c)(1) A licensee who has not applied for renewal or whose renewal application did not meet the requirements for renewal shall be notified by the commission.

(2) An application for renewal of a license that has been submitted but not renewed by the date of expiration is considered a new applicant.

17-42-513. Approval of courses and course content.

(a) Except for courses exempted in § 17-42-503(b), a real estate course that is intended to satisfy the education requirements for a real estate license shall first be approved by the Arkansas Real Estate Commission.

(b) An application for course approval shall be submitted on the form required by the commission with the required fees.

(c) Requirements for course approval are determined by the commission.

17-42-514. Curricula.

(a) The Arkansas Real Estate Commission may:

(1) Identify subject matter topics for continuing education courses;

(2) Identify a specific topic of not more than three (3) hours to be included in the education requirement of six (6) hours of continuing

education annually;

(3) Develop and require a specific curriculum for continuing education courses for licensed brokers or their designees; and

(4) Identify subject matter topics for which licensed schools and instructors may develop courses that fulfill the annual continuing education requirements.

(b) The commission may develop the curricula for prelicense and postlicense education.

17-42-515. Violations.

An applicant for a real estate educator license or a licensee is subject to disciplinary action under this subchapter if the applicant for a real estate educator license or a licensee pleads guilty or nolo contendere to or is found guilty of any of the following:

(1) Obtaining a real estate educator license or real estate education course approval by fraud, misrepresentation, or concealment;

(2) Violating this subchapter, the rules adopted by the Arkansas Real Estate Commission, or an order issued by the commission;

(3) Committing an act, felony, or crime involving moral turpitude, fraud, dishonesty, untruthfulness, or untrustworthiness regardless of whether the imposition of the sentence has been deferred or suspended;

(4) Engaging or allowing unlawful discriminatory practices;

(5) Violating the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq., regarding access to and delivery of real estate education courses;

(6) Issuing or reporting a false certificate of completion for a real estate education course;

(7) Teaching a course in a way that instructs licensees to engage in unlawful or noncompliant activities;

(8) Failing to monitor attendance of students to ensure satisfactory completion of real estate education courses approved by the commission;

(9) Utilizing an instructor or guest speaker who does not meet the requirements of this subchapter;

(10) Making a substantial misrepresentation of a material fact to the commission;

- (11) Advertising in a false, misleading, or deceptive way;
- (12) Being unworthy or incompetent to act or operate as a real estate education school or association or a real estate educator; or
- (13) Other conduct that constitutes improper, fraudulent, or dishonest dealing.

17-42-516. Investigation of complaint – Penalties.

(a)(1) The Arkansas Real Estate Commission may on its own motion and shall on the complaint in writing of a person, if the complaint and evidence presented make a prima facie case, investigate the action of a person or entity engaged in the business or acting in the capacity of a real estate school, association, or instructor licensed by the commission.

(2) A student's inability to pass the real estate exam does not in and of itself make a prima facie case.

(3) If the complaint fails to state a prima facie case or if the Executive Director of the Arkansas Real Estate Commission determines there is insufficient proof of a violation of this subchapter, the executive director shall dismiss the complaint.

(4) If the executive director determines that there is sufficient proof of a violation of this subchapter, the person or entity responsible shall be notified of the charges and ordered to appear for a hearing.

(5) If the person or entity is found to have violated this subchapter, the commission may impose one (1) or more of the following sanctions:

(A) Suspend, revoke, or deny the license or course approval or its renewal;

(B) Impose a penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each violation;

(C) Require completion of appropriate education programs or courses;

(D) Place conditions or restrictions on the license or course approval held by the person or entity in violation or order the licensed entity or person to reimburse moneys collected from the complainant;
or

(E) Impose other requirements or penalties as may be

appropriate to the circumstances of the case that achieve the desired disciplinary purposes without impairing the public welfare and morals.

(b) The commission shall file suit in the circuit court of the county in which the defendant resides or does business to collect a penalty assessed under this subchapter if the penalty is not paid within the time prescribed by the commission.

(c) Under certain circumstances, the commission may suspend the imposition of any sanction.

(d) The license of an instructor, school, or association with outstanding disciplinary fines or student reimbursements is suspended until the moneys owed the commission or amounts ordered to be paid by the commission are paid.

17-42-517. Dismissal of complaint - Appeal.

(a) A person whose complaint against a licensed school, administrator, or instructor is dismissed by the Executive Director of the Arkansas Real Estate Commission without a hearing may appeal the dismissal to the Arkansas Real Estate Commission subject to the following:

(1) The request for appeal is in writing and received by the commission within sixty (60) days following the date of dismissal by the executive director;

(2) The request for appeal is accompanied by a filing fee as the commission may require under this subchapter; and

(3)(A)(i) The appellant shall pay the cost of preparing the record for the commission's review.

(ii) The appellant shall pay the costs within thirty (30) days after notification of the amount, or the appeal is dismissed.

(B) If the commission's review results in a hearing being ordered, the filing fee and the cost of preparing the record are refunded to the appellant.

(C) A person who is indigent and cannot pay the filing fee or the cost of the record, or both, may file a pauper's oath in a form provided by the commission. If the commission determines that the appellant is indeed indigent, the filing fee or cost of the record may be waived.

(b)(1) An appeal perfected under subsection (a) of this section is presented to and decided by the commission on the written record.

(2) The decision by the commission may be to affirm the executive director's dismissal, to order additional investigation, or to order a hearing.

17-42-518. Hearings.

(a) Proceedings under this subchapter are conducted under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

(b) Except in the case of a person or entity obtaining a license or course approval by false or fraudulent representation, the Arkansas Real Estate Commission shall not investigate the actions of or conduct a disciplinary hearing regarding a licensed school, administrator, or instructor unless the complaint is filed or the investigation begins within three (3) years from the date of the actions.

SECTION 4. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Effective January 1, 2014, the Arkansas Real Estate Commission has the authority to issue and renew real estate education licenses under this subchapter. It is the intent of this section to cure any gap in applicable law resulting from the transition from licensing under prior law with the State Board of Private Career Education to this subchapter.

/s/D. Johnson

APPROVED: 03/06/2013