#### As Passed by the Senate

## **131st General Assembly**

# Regular Session 2015-2016

Am. H. B. No. 532

### Representative Smith, R.

Cosponsors: Representatives Antani, Baker, Bishoff, Clyde, Derickson, DeVitis, Dovilla, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, McClain, Reineke, Rogers, Ruhl, Smith, K., Sprague, Sweeney, Young

Senators Beagle, Coley, Eklund, Hackett, LaRose, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Seitz

# A BILL

ГО	amend sections 4735.01, 4735.06, 4735.07,	1
	4735.09, 4735.10, 4735.141, 4735.142, 4735.18,	2
	4735.24, 4735.51, and 4735.65 and to enact	3
	sections 4735.081, 4735.091, and 4735.23 of the	4
	Revised Code relating to real estate brokers and	5
	salespersons.	6

#### BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

<b>Section 1</b> . That sections 4735.01, 4735.06, 4735.07,	7
4735.09, 4735.10, 4735.141, 4735.142, 4735.18, 4735.24, 4735.51,	8
and 4735.65 be amended and sections 4735.081, 4735.091, and	9
4735.23 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	10
Sec. 4735.01. As used in this chapter:	11
(A) "Real estate broker" includes any person, partnership,	12
association, limited liability company, limited liability	13
partnership, or corporation, foreign or domestic, who for	14
another, whether pursuant to a power of attorney or otherwise,	15

and who for a fee, commission, or other valuable consideration,	16
or with the intention, or in the expectation, or upon the	17
promise of receiving or collecting a fee, commission, or other	18
valuable consideration does any of the following:	19
(1) Sells, exchanges, purchases, rents, or leases, or	20
negotiates the sale, exchange, purchase, rental, or leasing of	21
any real estate;	22
(2) Offers, attempts, or agrees to negotiate the sale,	23
exchange, purchase, rental, or leasing of any real estate;	24
(3) Lists, or offers, attempts, or agrees to list, or	25
auctions, or offers, attempts, or agrees to auction, any real	26
estate;	27
(4) Buys or offers to buy, sells or offers to sell, or	28
otherwise deals in options on real estate;	29
(5) Operates, manages, or rents, or offers or attempts to	30
operate, manage, or rent, other than as custodian, caretaker, or	31
janitor, any building or portions of buildings to the public as	32
tenants;	33
(6) Advertises or holds self out as engaged in the	34
business of selling, exchanging, purchasing, renting, or leasing	35
real estate;	36
(7) Directs or assists in the procuring of prospects or	37
the negotiation of any transaction, other than mortgage	38
financing, which does or is calculated to result in the sale,	39
exchange, leasing, or renting of any real estate;	40
(8) Is engaged in the business of charging an advance fee	41
or contracting for collection of a fee in connection with any	42
contract whereby the broker undertakes primarily to promote the	43

sale, exchange, purchase, rental, or leasing of real estate	44
through its listing in a publication issued primarily for such	45
purpose, or for referral of information concerning such real	46
estate to brokers, or both, except that this division does not	47
apply to a publisher of listings or compilations of sales of	48
real estate by their owners;	49
(9) Collects rental information for purposes of referring	50
prospective tenants to rental units or locations of such units	51
and charges the prospective tenants a fee.	52
(B) "Real estate" includes leaseholds as well as any and	53
every interest or estate in land situated in this state, whether	54
corporeal or incorporeal, whether freehold or nonfreehold, and	55
the improvements on the land, but does not include cemetery	56
interment rights.	57
(C) "Real estate salesperson" means any person associated	58
with a licensed real estate broker to do or to deal in any acts	59
or transactions set out or comprehended by the definition of a	60
real estate broker, for compensation or otherwise.	61
(D) "Institution of higher education" means either	62
<pre>includes all of the following:</pre>	63
(1) A state institution of higher education, as defined in	64
section 3345.011 of the Revised Code;	65
(2) A nonprofit institution—as defined in section 1713.01	66
of the Revised Code that actually awards, rather than intends to	67
award, degrees for fulfilling requirements of academic work-	68
beyond high school issued a certificate of authorization under	69
<pre>Chapter 1713. of the Revised Code;</pre>	70
(2) An (3) A private institution operated for profit that	71
otherwise qualifies under the definition of an institution in	72

(G) "Foreign real estate salesperson" means any person	95
associated with a licensed foreign real estate dealer to do or	96
deal in any act or transaction specified or comprehended in	97
division (A) of this section with respect to foreign real	98
estate, for compensation or otherwise.	99

section with respect to foreign real estate.

(H) Any person, partnership, association, limitedliability company, limited liability partnership, or101

corporation, who, for another, in consideration of compensation,	102
by fee, commission, salary, or otherwise, or with the intention,	103
in the expectation, or upon the promise of receiving or	104
collecting a fee, does, or offers, attempts, or agrees to engage	105
in, any single act or transaction contained in the definition of	106
a real estate broker, whether an act is an incidental part of a	107
transaction, or the entire transaction, shall be constituted a	108
real estate broker or real estate salesperson under this	109
chapter.	110

- (I)(1) The terms "real estate broker," "real estate 111 salesperson," "foreign real estate dealer," and "foreign real 112 estate salesperson" do not include a person, partnership, 113 association, limited liability company, limited liability 114 partnership, or corporation, or the regular employees thereof, 115 who perform any of the acts or transactions specified or 116 comprehended in division (A) of this section, whether or not 117 for, or with the intention, in expectation, or upon the promise 118 of receiving or collecting a fee, commission, or other valuable 119 consideration: 120
- (a) With reference to real estate situated in this state

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  owned by such person, partnership, association, limited

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  liability company, limited liability partnership, or

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  corporation, or acquired on its own account in the regular

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  course of, or as an incident to the management of the property

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  and the investment in it;
- (b) As receiver or trustee in bankruptcy, as guardian,

  executor, administrator, trustee, assignee, commissioner, or any

  person doing the things mentioned in this section, under

  authority or appointment of, or incident to a proceeding in, any

  court, or as a bona fide public officer, or as executor,

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trustee, or other bona fide fiduciary under any trust agreement,	132
deed of trust, will, or other instrument that has been executed	133
in good faith creating a like bona fide fiduciary obligation;	134
(c) As a public officer while performing the officer's	135
official duties;	136
(d) As an attorney at law in the performance of the	137
attorney's duties;	138
(e) As a person who engages in the brokering of the sale	139
of business assets, not including the sale, lease, exchange, or	140
assignment of any interest in real estate;	141
(f) As a person who engages in the sale of manufactured	142
homes as defined in division (C)(4) of section $3781.06$ of the	143
Revised Code, or of mobile homes as defined in division (0) of	144
section 4501.01 of the Revised Code, provided the sale does not	145
include the negotiation, sale, lease, exchange, or assignment of	146
any interest in real estate;	147
(g) As a person who engages in the sale of commercial real	148
estate pursuant to the requirements of section 4735.022 of the	149
Revised Code.	150
(2) A person, partnership, association, limited liability	151
company, limited liability partnership, or corporation exempt	152
under division (I)(1)(a) of this section shall be limited by the	153
legal interest in the real estate held by that person or entity	154
to performing any of the acts or transactions specified in or	155
comprehended by division (A) of this section.	156
(J) "Disabled licensee" means a person licensed pursuant	157
to this chapter who is under a severe disability which is of	158
such a nature as to prevent the person from being able to attend	159
any instruction lasting at least three hours in duration.	160

(K) "Division of real estate" may be used interchangeably	161
with, and for all purposes has the same meaning as, "division of	162
real estate and professional licensing."	163
(L) "Superintendent" or "superintendent of real estate"	164
means the superintendent of the division of real estate and	165
professional licensing of this state. Whenever the division or	166
superintendent of real estate is referred to or designated in	167
any statute, rule, contract, or other document, the reference or	168
designation shall be deemed to refer to the division or	169
superintendent of real estate and professional licensing, as the	170
case may be.	171
(M) "Inactive license" means the license status in which a	172
salesperson's license is in the possession of the division,	173
renewed as required under this chapter or rules adopted under	174
this chapter, and not associated with a real estate broker.	175
(N) "Broker's license on deposit" means the license status	176
in which a broker's license is in the possession of the division	177
of real estate and professional licensing and renewed as	178
required under this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter.	179
(O) "Suspended license" means the license status that	180
prohibits a licensee from providing services that require a	181
license under this chapter for a specified interval of time.	182
(P) "Reactivate" means the process prescribed by the	183
superintendent of real estate and professional licensing to	184
remove a license from an inactive, suspended, or broker's	185
license on deposit status to allow a licensee to provide	186
services that require a license under this chapter.	187
(Q) "Revoked" means the license status in which the	188

license is void and not eligible for reactivation.

(R) "Commercial real estate" means any parcel of real	190
estate in this state other than real estate containing one to	191
four residential units. "Commercial real estate" does not	192
include single-family residential units such as condominiums,	193
townhouses, manufactured homes, or homes in a subdivision when	194
sold, leased, or otherwise conveyed on a unit-by-unit basis,	195
even when those units are a part of a larger building or parcel	196
of real estate containing more than four residential units.	197
(S) "Out-of-state commercial broker" includes any person,	198
partnership, association, limited liability company, limited	199
liability partnership, or corporation that is licensed to do	200
business as a real estate broker in a jurisdiction other than	201
Ohio.	202
(T) "Out-of-state commercial salesperson" includes any	203
person affiliated with an out-of-state commercial broker who is	204
not licensed as a real estate salesperson in Ohio.	205
(U) "Exclusive right to sell or lease listing agreement"	206
means an agency agreement between a seller and broker that meets	207
the requirements of section 4735.55 of the Revised Code and does	208
both of the following:	209
(1) Grants the broker the exclusive right to represent the	210
seller in the sale or lease of the seller's property;	211
(2) Provides the broker will be compensated if the broker,	212
the seller, or any other person or entity produces a purchaser	213
or tenant in accordance with the terms specified in the listing	214
agreement or if the property is sold or leased during the term	215
of the listing agreement to anyone other than to specifically	216
exempted persons or entities.	217

(V) "Exclusive agency agreement" means an agency agreement

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who is the potential transferor of property. "Seller" includes	248
an owner of property who is seeking to sell the property and a	249
landlord who is seeking to rent or lease property to another	250
person.	251
(Y) "Resigned" means the license status in which a license	252
has been voluntarily and permanently surrendered to or is	253
otherwise in the possession of the division of real estate and	254
professional licensing, may not be renewed or reactivated in	255
accordance with the requirements specified in this chapter or	256
the rules adopted pursuant to it, and is not associated with a	257
real estate broker.	258
(Z) "Bona fide" means made in good faith or without	259
purpose of circumventing license law.	260
(AA) "Associate broker" means an individual licensed as a	261
real estate broker under this chapter who does not function as	262
the principal broker or a management level licensee.	263
(BB) "Brokerage" means a corporation, partnership, limited	264
partnership, association, limited liability company, limited	265
<u>liability partnership</u> , or sole proprietorship, foreign or	266
domestic, that has been issued a broker's license. "Brokerage"	267
includes the affiliated licensees who have been assigned	268
management duties that include supervision of licensees whose	269
duties may conflict with those of other affiliated licensees.	270
(CC) "Credit-eligible course" means a credit or noncredit-	271
bearing course that is both of the following:	272
(1) The course is offered by an institution of higher	273
education.	274
(2) The course is eligible for academic credit that may be	275
applied toward the requirements for a degree at the institution_	276

of higher education.	277
(DD) "Distance education" means courses required by	278
divisions (B)(6) and (G) of section 4735.07, divisions (F)(6)	279
and (J) of section 4735.09, and division (A) of section 4735.141	280
of the Revised Code in which instruction is accomplished through	281
use of interactive, electronic media and where the teacher and	282
student are separated by distance or time, or both.	283
(EE) "Licensee" means any individual licensed as a real	284
estate broker or salesperson by the Ohio real estate commission	285
pursuant to this chapter.	286
(FF) "Management level licensee" means a licensee who is	287
employed by or affiliated with a real estate broker and who has	288
supervisory responsibility over other licensees employed by or	289
affiliated with that real estate broker.	290
(GG) "Principal broker" means an individual licensed as a	291
real estate broker under this chapter who oversees and directs	292
the operations of the brokerage.	293
Sec. 4735.06. (A) Application for a license as a real	294
estate broker shall be made to the superintendent of real estate	295
on forms furnished by the superintendent and filed with the	296
superintendent and shall be signed by the applicant or its	297
members or officers. Each application shall state the name of	298
the person applying and the location of the place of business	299
for which the license is desired, and give such other	300
information as the superintendent requires in the form of	301
application prescribed by the superintendent.	302
(B)(1) If the applicant is a partnership, limited	303
liability company, limited liability partnership, or	304
association, the names of all the members also shall be stated,	305

and, if the applicant is a corporation, the names of its	306
president and of each of its officers also shall be stated.	307
The superintendent has the right to reject the application	308
of any partnership, association, limited liability company,	309
limited liability partnership, or corporation if the name	310
proposed to be used by such partnership, association, limited	311
liability company, limited liability partnership, or corporation	312
is likely to mislead the public or if the name is not such as to	313
distinguish it from the name of any existing partnership,	314
association, limited liability company, limited liability	315
partnership, or corporation licensed under this chapter, unless	316
there is filed with the application the written consent of such	317
existing partnership, association, limited liability company,	318
limited liability partnership, or corporation, executed by a	319
duly authorized representative of it, permitting the use of the	320
name of such existing partnership, association, limited	321
liability company, limited liability partnership, or	322
corporation.	323
(B)(2) The superintendent shall approve the use of a trade	324
name by a brokerage, if the name meets both of the following	325
criteria:	326
(a) The proposed name is not the same as or is clearly	327
distinguishable from a name registered with the division of real	328
estate and professional licensing by another existing brokerage.	329
If the superintendent determines that the proposed name is not	330
clearly distinguishable from any other existing brokerage, the	331
superintendent may approve the use of the trade name if there is	332
filed with the superintendent the written consent of the	333
existing brokerage with the same or similar name.	334
(b) The name is not misleading or likely to mislead the	335

<pre>public.</pre>	336
(3) The superintendent may approve the use of more than	337
one trade name for a brokerage.	338
(4) When a brokerage has received the approval of the	339
superintendent to conduct business under one or more trade	340
names, those trade names shall be the only identifying names	341
used by the brokerage in all advertising.	342
(C) A fee of one hundred dollars shall accompany the	343
application for a real estate broker's license. The initial	344
licensing period commences at the time the license is issued and	345
ends on the applicant's first birthday thereafter. However, if	346
the applicant was an inactive or active salesperson immediately	347
preceding application for a broker's license, then the initial	348
licensing period shall commence at the time the broker's license	349
is issued and ends on the date the licensee's continuing	350
education is due as set when the applicant was a salesperson.	351
The application fee shall be nonrefundable. A fee of one hundred	352
dollars shall be charged by the superintendent for each	353
successive application made by an applicant. In the case of	354
issuance of a three-year license, upon passing the examination,	355
or upon waiver of the examination requirement, if the	356
superintendent determines it is necessary, the applicant shall	357
submit an additional fee determined by the superintendent based	358
upon the number of years remaining in a real estate	359
salesperson's licensing period.	360
$\frac{(C)-(D)}{(D)}$ One dollar of each application fee for a real	361
estate broker's license shall be credited to the real estate	362
education and research fund, which is hereby created in the	363
state treasury. The Ohio real estate commission may use the fund	364
in discharging the duties prescribed in divisions (E), (F), (G),	365

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and (H) of section 4735.03 of the Revised Code and shall use it 366 in the advancement of education and research in real estate at 367 any institution of higher education in the state, or in 368 contracting with any such institution or a trade organization 369 for a particular research or educational project in the field of 370 real estate, or in advancing loans, not exceeding two thousand 371 dollars, to applicants for salesperson licenses, to defray the 372 costs of satisfying the educational requirements of division (F) 373 of section 4735.09 of the Revised Code. Such loans shall be made 374 according to rules established by the commission under the 375 procedures of Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, and they shall 376 be repaid to the fund within three years of the time they are 377 made. No more than twenty-five thousand dollars shall be lent 378 from the fund in any one fiscal year. 379

The governor may appoint a representative from the 380 executive branch to be a member ex officio of the commission for 381 the purpose of advising on research requests or educational 382 projects. The commission shall report to the general assembly on 383 the third Tuesday after the third Monday in January of each year 384 setting forth the total amount contained in the fund and the 385 amount of each research grant that it has authorized and the 386 amount of each research grant requested. A copy of all research 387 reports shall be submitted to the state library of Ohio and the 388 library of the legislative service commission. 389

(D)—(E) If the superintendent, with the consent of the commission, enters into an agreement with a national testing service to administer the real estate broker's examination, pursuant to division (A) of section 4735.07 of the Revised Code, the superintendent may require an applicant to pay the testing service's examination fee directly to the testing service. If the superintendent requires the payment of the examination fee

directly to the testing service, each applicant shall submit to	397
the superintendent a processing fee in an amount determined by	398
the Ohio real estate commission pursuant to division (A)(2) of	399
section 4735.10 of the Revised Code.	400
Sec. 4735.07. (A) The superintendent of real estate, with	401
the consent of the Ohio real estate commission, may enter into	402
agreements with recognized national testing services to	403
administer the real estate broker's examination under the	404
superintendent's supervision and control, consistent with the	405
requirements of this chapter as to the contents of such	406
examination.	407
(B) No applicant for a real estate broker's license shall	408
take the broker's examination who has not established to the	409
satisfaction of the superintendent that the applicant:	410
(1) Is honest, truthful, and of good reputation;	411
(2)(a) Has not been convicted of a felony or crime of	412
moral turpitude, or if the applicant has been so convicted, the	413
superintendent has disregarded the conviction because the	414
applicant has proven to the superintendent, by a preponderance	415
of the evidence, that the applicant's activities and employment	416
record since the conviction show that the applicant is honest,	417
truthful, and of good reputation, and there is no basis in fact	418
for believing that the applicant again will violate the laws	419
involved;	420
(b) Has not been finally adjudged by a court to have	421
violated any municipal, state, or federal civil rights laws	422
relevant to the protection of purchasers or sellers of real	423
estate or, if the applicant has been so adjudged, at least two	424
years have passed since the court decision and the	425

practice;

superintendent has disregarded the adjudication because the	426
applicant has proven, by a preponderance of the evidence, that	427
the applicant's activities and employment record since the	428
adjudication show that the applicant is honest, truthful, and of	429
good reputation, and there is no basis in fact for believing	430
that the applicant will again violate the laws involved.	431
(3) Has not, during any period in which the applicant was	432
licensed under this chapter, violated any provision of, or any	433
rule adopted pursuant to, this chapter, or, if the applicant has	434
violated any such provision or rule, has established to the	435
satisfaction of the superintendent that the applicant will not	436
again violate such provision or rule;	437
(4) Is at least eighteen years of age;	438
(5) Has been a licensed real estate broker or salesperson	439
for at least two years; during at least two of the five years	440
preceding the person's application, has worked as a licensed	441
real estate broker or salesperson for an average of at least	442
thirty hours per week; and has completed one of the following:	443
(a) At least twenty real estate transactions, in which	444
property was sold for another by the applicant while acting in	445
the capacity of a real estate broker or salesperson;	446
(b) Such equivalent experience as is defined by rules	447
adopted by the commission.	448
(6)(a) If licensed as a real estate salesperson prior to	449
August 1, 2001, successfully has completed at an institution of	450
higher education all of the following <u>credit-eligible courses by</u>	451
either classroom instruction or distance education:	452
(i) Thirty hours of <del>classroom</del> -instruction in real estate	453

(ii) Thirty hours of <del>classroom</del> -instruction that includes	455
the subjects of Ohio real estate law, municipal, state, and	456
federal civil rights law, new case law on housing	457
discrimination, desegregation issues, and methods of eliminating	458
the effects of prior discrimination. If feasible, the <del>classroom-</del>	459
instruction in Ohio real estate law shall be taught by a member	460
of the faculty of an accredited law school. If feasible, the	461
classroom—instruction in municipal, state, and federal civil	462
rights law, new case law on housing discrimination,	463
desegregation issues, and methods of eliminating the effects of	464
prior discrimination shall be taught by a staff member of the	465
Ohio civil rights commission who is knowledgeable with respect	466
to those subjects. The requirements of this division do not	467
apply to an applicant who is admitted to practice before the	468
supreme court.	469
(iii) Thirty hours of <del>classroom</del> -instruction in real estate	470
appraisal;	471
applateat,	
(iv) Thirty hours of <del>classroom</del> -instruction in real estate	472
finance;	473
(v) Three quarter hours, or its equivalent in semester	474
hours, in financial management;	475
(vi) Three quarter hours or its equivalent in semester	476
(vi) Three quarter hours, or its equivalent in semester	477
hours, in human resource or personnel management;	4//
(vii) Three quarter hours, or its equivalent in semester	478
hours, in applied business economics;	479
(viii) Three quarter hours, or its equivalent in semester	480
hours, in business law.	481
(b) If licensed as a real estate salesperson on or after	482
August 1, 2001, successfully has completed at an institution of	483

higher education all of the following credit-eligible courses by	484
either classroom instruction or distance education:	485
(i) Forty hours of <del>classroom</del> -instruction in real estate	486
practice;	487
(ii) Forty hours of <del>classroom</del> -instruction that includes	488
the subjects of Ohio real estate law, municipal, state, and	489
federal civil rights law, new case law on housing	490
discrimination, desegregation issues, and methods of eliminating	491
the effects of prior discrimination. If feasible, the <del>classroom</del>	492
instruction in Ohio real estate law shall be taught by a member	493
of the faculty of an accredited law school. If feasible, the	494
classroom—instruction in municipal, state, and federal civil	495
rights law, new case law on housing discrimination,	496
desegregation issues, and methods of eliminating the effects of	497
prior discrimination shall be taught by a staff member of the	498
Ohio civil rights commission who is knowledgeable with respect	499
to those subjects. The requirements of this division do not	500
apply to an applicant who is admitted to practice before the	501
supreme court.	502
(iii) Twenty hours of <del>classroom</del> instruction in real estate	503
appraisal;	504
(iv) Twenty hours of <del>classroom</del> -instruction in real estate	505
finance;	506
(v) The training in the amount of hours specified under	507
divisions (B)(6)(a)(v), (vi), (vii), and (viii) of this section.	508
(c) Division (B)(6)(a) or (b) of this section does not	509
apply to any applicant who holds a valid real estate	510
salesperson's license issued prior to January 2, 1972. Divisions	511
(B)(6)(a)(v), (vi), (vii), and (viii) or division (B)(6)(b)(v)	512

of this section do not apply to any applicant who holds a valid	513
real estate salesperson's license issued prior to January 3,	514
1984.	515
(d) Divisions (B)(6)(a)(iii) and (B)(6)(b)(iii) of this	516
section do not apply to any new applicant who holds a valid Ohio	517
real estate appraiser license or certificate issued prior to the	518
date of application for a real estate broker's license.	519
(e) Successful completion of the instruction required by	520
division (B)(6)(a) or (b) of this section shall be determined by	521
the law in effect on the date the instruction was completed.	522
(7) If licensed as a real estate salesperson on or after	523
January 3, 1984, satisfactorily has completed a minimum of two	524
years of post-secondary education, or its equivalent in semester	525
or quarter hours, at an institution of higher education, and has	526
fulfilled the requirements of division (B)(6)(a) or (b) of this	527
section. The requirements of division (B)(6)(a) or (b) of this	528
section may be included in the two years of post-secondary	529
education, or its equivalent in semester or quarter hours, that	530
is required by this division. The post-secondary education	531
requirement may be satisfied by completing the credit-eligible	532
courses using either classroom instruction or distance	533
education. Successful completion of any course required by this	534
section shall be determined by the law in effect on the date the	535
course was completed.	536
(C) Each applicant for a broker's license shall be	537
examined in the principles of real estate practice, Ohio real	538
estate law, and financing and appraisal, and as to the duties of	539
real estate brokers and real estate salespersons, the	540
applicant's knowledge of real estate transactions and	541
instruments relating to them, and the canons of business ethics	542

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promulgate	such	canons	and	cause	them	to	be	publ	ished	d in	printed	544
form.												545

- (D) Examinations shall be administered with reasonable 546 accommodations in accordance with the requirements of the 547 "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990," 104 Stat. 327, 42 548 U.S.C. 12101. The contents of an examination shall be consistent 549 with the requirements of division (B)(6) of this section and 550 with the other specific requirements of this section. An 551 552 applicant who has completed the requirements of division (B)(6) of this section at the time of application shall be examined no 553 later than twelve months after the applicant is notified of 554 admission to the examination. 555
- (E) The superintendent may waive one or more of the requirements of this section in the case of an application from a nonresident real estate broker pursuant to a reciprocity agreement with the licensing authority of the state from which the nonresident applicant holds a valid real estate broker license.
- (F) There shall be no limit placed on the number of times 562 an applicant may retake the examination. 563
- (G)(1) Not earlier than the date of issue of a real estate 564 broker's license to a licensee, but not later than twelve months 565 after the date of issue of a real estate broker's license to a 566 licensee, the licensee shall submit proof satisfactory to the 567 superintendent, on forms made available by the superintendent, 568 of the completion of ten hours of <del>classroom</del> instruction that 569 shall be completed in schools, seminars, and educational 570 institutions that are approved by the commission. Approval of 571 the curriculum and providers shall be granted according to rules 572

adopted pursuant to section 4735.10 of the Revised Code and may	573
be taken through classroom instruction or distance education.	574
If the required proof of completion is not submitted to	575
the superintendent within twelve months of the date a license is	576
issued under this section, the license of the real estate broker	577
is suspended automatically without the taking of any action by	578
the superintendent. The broker's license shall not be	579
reactivated by the superintendent until it is established, to	580
the satisfaction of the superintendent, that the requirements of	581
this division have been met and that the licensee is in	582
compliance with this chapter. A licensee's license is revoked	583
automatically without the taking of any action by the	584
superintendent if the licensee fails to submit proof of	585
completion of the education requirements specified under	586
division (G)(1) of this section within twelve months of the date	587
the license is suspended.	588
(2) If the license of a real estate broker is suspended	589
pursuant to division (G)(1) of this section, the license of a	590
real estate salesperson associated with that broker	591
correspondingly is suspended pursuant to division (H) of section	592
4735.20 of the Revised Code. However, the suspended license of	593
the associated real estate salesperson shall be reactivated and	594
no fee shall be charged or collected for that reactivation if	595
all of the following occur:	596
(a) That broker subsequently submits satisfactory proof to	597
the superintendent that the broker has complied with the	598
requirements of division (G)(1) of this section and requests	599
that the broker's license as a real estate broker be	600
reactivated;	601

(b) The superintendent then reactivates the broker's

license as a real estate broker;	603
(c) The associated real estate salesperson intends to	604
continue to be associated with that broker and otherwise is in	605
compliance with this chapter.	606
Sec. 4735.081. (A) Each brokerage shall designate at least_	607
one affiliated broker to act as the principal broker of the	608
brokerage. Any affiliated broker not so designated shall be an	609
associate broker or management level licensee for that	610
brokerage.	611
(B) A brokerage shall report any change in designation as	612
a principal broker to the superintendent not later than fifteen	613
days after the change occurs.	614
(C) Every principal broker of a brokerage shall do all of	615
<pre>the following:</pre>	616
(1) Oversee and direct the operations of the brokerage;	617
(2) Comply with the office requirements set forth in	618
division (A) of section 4735.13 and division (A) of section	619
4735.16 of the Revised Code;	620
(3) Display, as required by division (D) of section	621
4735.16 of the Revised Code and division rules, the fair housing	622
statement in the brokerage offices and on the pamphlets required	623
by that section and section 4735.03 of the Revised Code and the	624
rules adopted by the Ohio real estate commission;	625
(4) Renew the licenses of the brokerage and any branch	626
offices as required by section 4735.14 of the Revised Code and	627
pay the fee required under division (B)(2) of section 4735.15 of	628
the Revised Code and commission rules;	629
(5) Maintain the licenses of the brokerage and affiliated	630

salespersons and brokers as required by section 4735.13 of the	631
Revised Code;	632
(6) Return the license of terminated salespersons and	633
brokers as required by division (B) of section 4735.13 of the	634
Revised Code;	635
(7) Comply with the trust or special bank account	636
requirements set forth in divisions (A) (26) and (27) of section	637
4735.18 and section 4735.24 of the Revised Code and commission	638
rules;	639
(8) Maintain complete and accurate trust account records	640
and transaction records as required by division (A) (24) of	641
section 4735.18 of the Revised Code and commission rules;	642
(9) Develop and maintain a written company policy on	643
agency relationships as required by section 4735.54 of the	644
Revised Code and rules adopted by the superintendent of real	645
estate and professional licensing;	646
(10) Develop a written brokerage policy on agency required	647
by section 4735.56 of the Revised Code;	648
(11) Pay affiliate licensees as required by division (A)	649
(31) of section 4735.18 of the Revised Code;	650
(12) Establish practices and procedures to assure that	651
only affiliated licensees perform and are compensated for	652
performing the licensed activity as required by division (A) (34)	653
of sections 4735.18 and 4735.20 of the Revised Code;	654
(13) Establish practices and procedures to assure	655
compliance with the advertising requirements set forth in	656
section 4735.16 of the Revised Code and commission rules;	657
(14) Generally oversee the licensed activity of affiliated	658

licensees and to assure that affiliated licensees are providing	659
real estate services within their area of competency or are	660
working with another affiliated licensee who possesses such a	661
competency.	662
(D) The principal broker or brokers of a brokerage may	663
assign to a management level licensee any of the duties	664
described in division (C) of this section or in commission	665
rules.	666
(E) The superintendent may permit a broker to be licensed	667
with and act as the principal broker for more than one	668
brokerage.	669
(F) Nothing in this section shall be considered prima	670
facie evidence of whether an affiliated licensee is an	671
independent contractor or an employee of the brokerage.	672
Sec. 4735.09. (A) Application for a license as a real	673
estate salesperson shall be made to the superintendent of real	674
estate on forms furnished by the superintendent and signed by	675
the applicant. The application shall be in the form prescribed	676
by the superintendent and shall contain such information as is	677
required by this chapter and the rules of the Ohio real estate	678
commission. The application shall be accompanied by the	679
recommendation of the real estate broker with whom the applicant	680
is associated or with whom the applicant intends to be	681
associated, certifying that the applicant is honest, truthful,	682
and of good reputation, has not been convicted of a felony or a	683
crime involving moral turpitude, and has not been finally	684
adjudged by a court to have violated any municipal, state, or	685
federal civil rights laws relevant to the protection of	686
purchasers or sellers of real estate, which conviction or	687
adjudication the applicant has not disclosed to the	688

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superintendent, and recommending that the applicant be admitted 689 to the real estate salesperson examination. 690

- (B) A fee of sixty dollars shall accompany the 691 application, which fee includes the fee for the initial year of 692 the licensing period, if a license is issued. The initial year 693 of the licensing period commences at the time the license is 694 issued and ends on the applicant's first birthday thereafter. 695 The application fee shall be nonrefundable. A fee of sixty 696 dollars shall be charged by the superintendent for each 697 successive application made by the applicant. One dollar of each 698 application fee shall be credited to the real estate education 699 and research fund. 700
- (C) There shall be no limit placed on the number of times an applicant may retake the examination.
- (D) The superintendent, with the consent of the 703 commission, may enter into an agreement with a recognized 704 national testing service to administer the real estate 705 salesperson's examination under the superintendent's supervision 706 and control, consistent with the requirements of this chapter as 707 to the contents of the examination.

If the superintendent, with the consent of the commission, 709 enters into an agreement with a national testing service to 710 administer the real estate salesperson's examination, the 711 superintendent may require an applicant to pay the testing 712 service's examination fee directly to the testing service. If 713 the superintendent requires the payment of the examination fee 714 directly to the testing service, each applicant shall submit to 715 the superintendent a processing fee in an amount determined by 716 the Ohio real estate commission pursuant to division (A)(1) of 717 section 4735.10 of the Revised Code. 718

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(E) The superintendent shall issue a real estate	719
salesperson's license when satisfied that the applicant has	720
received a passing score on each portion of the salesperson's	721
examination as determined by rule by the real estate commission,	722
except that the superintendent may waive one or more of the	723
requirements of this section in the case of an applicant who is	724
a licensed real estate salesperson in another state pursuant to	725
a reciprocity agreement with the licensing authority of the	726
state from which the applicant holds a valid real estate	727
salesperson's license.	728

- (F) No applicant for a salesperson's license shall take the salesperson's examination who has not established to the satisfaction of the superintendent that the applicant:
  - (1) Is honest, truthful, and of good reputation;
- (2)(a) Has not been convicted of a felony or crime of 733 moral turpitude or, if the applicant has been so convicted, the 734 superintendent has disregarded the conviction because the 735 applicant has proven to the superintendent, by a preponderance 736 737 of the evidence, that the applicant's activities and employment record since the conviction show that the applicant is honest, 738 truthful, and of good reputation, and there is no basis in fact 739 for believing that the applicant again will violate the laws 740 involved; 741
- (b) Has not been finally adjudged by a court to have 742 violated any municipal, state, or federal civil rights laws 743 relevant to the protection of purchasers or sellers of real 744 estate or, if the applicant has been so adjudged, at least two 745 years have passed since the court decision and the 746 superintendent has disregarded the adjudication because the 747 applicant has proven, by a preponderance of the evidence, that 748

the applicant is honest, truthful, and of good reputation, and	749
there is no basis in fact for believing that the applicant again	750
will violate the laws involved.	751
(3) Has not, during any period in which the applicant was	752
licensed under this chapter, violated any provision of, or any	753
rule adopted pursuant to this chapter, or, if the applicant has	754
violated such provision or rule, has established to the	755
satisfaction of the superintendent that the applicant will not	756
again violate such provision or rule;	757
(4) Is at least eighteen years of age;	758
(5) If born after the year 1950, has a high school diploma	759
or its equivalent as recognized by the state department of	760
education;	761
(6) Has successfully completed at an institution of higher	762
education all of the following <u>credit-eligible courses</u> by either	763
classroom instruction or distance education:	764
(a) Forty hours of <del>classroom</del> -instruction in real estate	765
practice;	766
(b) Forty hours of <del>classroom</del> -instruction that includes the	767
subjects of Ohio real estate law, municipal, state, and federal	768
civil rights law, new case law on housing discrimination,	769
desegregation issues, and methods of eliminating the effects of	770
prior discrimination. If feasible, the <del>classroom</del> -instruction in	771
Ohio real estate law shall be taught by a member of the faculty	772
of an accredited law school. If feasible, the <del>classroom</del> -	773
instruction in municipal, state, and federal civil rights law,	774
instruction in municipal, state, and federal civil rights law, new case law on housing discrimination, desegregation issues,	774 775

commission who is knowledgeable with respect to those subjects.	778
The requirements of this division do not apply to an applicant	779
who is admitted to practice before the supreme court.	780
(c) Twenty hours of <del>classroom</del> -instruction in real estate	781
appraisal;	782
(d) Twenty hours of <del>classroom</del> -instruction in real estate	783
finance.	784
(G) (1) Successful completion of the instruction required	785
by division (F)(6) of this section shall be determined by the	786
law in effect on the date the instruction was completed.	787
(2) Division (F)(6)(c) of this section does not apply to	788
any new applicant who holds a valid Ohio real estate appraiser	789
license or certificate issued prior to the date of application	790
for a real estate salesperson's license.	791
(H) Only for noncredit course offerings, an institution of	792
higher education shall obtain approval from the appropriate	793
state authorizing entity prior to offering a real estate course	794
that is designed and marketed as satisfying the salesperson	795
license education requirements of division (F)(6) of this	796
section. The state authorizing entity may consult with the	797
superintendent in reviewing the course for compliance with this	798
section.	799
(I) Any person who has not been licensed as a real estate	800
salesperson or broker within a four-year period immediately	801
preceding the person's current application for the salesperson's	802
examination shall have successfully completed the prelicensure	803
classroom—instruction required by division (F)(6) of this	804
section within a ten-year period immediately preceding the	805
person's current application for the salesperson's examination.	806

$\frac{(I)}{(J)}$ Not earlier than the date of issue of a real	807
estate salesperson's license to a licensee, but not later than	808
twelve months after the date of issue of a real estate	809
salesperson license to a licensee, the licensee shall submit	810
proof satisfactory to the superintendent, on forms made	811
available by the superintendent, of the completion of ten twenty	812
hours of <del>classroom</del> -instruction that shall be completed in	813
schools, seminars, and educational institutions approved by the	814
commission. The instruction shall include, but is not limited	815
to, current practices relating to commercial real estate,	816
property management, short sales, and land contracts; contract	817
law; federal and state programs; economic conditions; and	818
fiduciary responsibility. Approval of the curriculum and	819
providers shall be granted according to rules adopted pursuant	820
to section 4735.10 of the Revised Code and may be taken through	821
classroom instruction or distance education.	822

If proof of completion of the required instruction is not 823 submitted within twelve months of the date a license is issued 824 under this section, the licensee's license is suspended 825 automatically without the taking of any action by the 826 superintendent. The superintendent immediately shall notify the 827 broker with whom such salesperson is associated of the 828 suspension of the salesperson's license. A salesperson whose 829 license has been suspended under this division shall have twelve 830 months after the date of the suspension of the salesperson's 831 license to submit proof of successful completion of the 832 instruction required under this division. No such license shall 833 be reactivated by the superintendent until it is established, to 834 the satisfaction of the superintendent, that the requirements of 835 this division have been met and that the licensee is in 836 compliance with this chapter. A licensee's license is revoked 837

automatically without the taking of any action by the	838
superintendent when the licensee fails to submit the required	839
proof of completion of the education requirements under division	840
(I) of this section within twelve months of the date the license	841
is suspended.	842
(J) (K) Examinations shall be administered with reasonable	843
accommodations in accordance with the requirements of the	844
"Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990," 104 Stat. 327, 42	845
U.S.C. 12189. The contents of an examination shall be consistent	846
with the classroom instructional requirements of division (F)(6)	847
of this section. An applicant who has completed the classroom	848
instructional requirements of division (F)(6) of this section at	849
the time of application shall be examined no later than twelve	850
months after the applicant is notified of the applicant's	851
admission to the examination.	852
Sec. 4735.091. A real estate broker, real estate	853
salesperson, foreign real estate dealer, and foreign real estate	854
salesperson may be associated with a brokerage as either an	855
employee or an independent contractor.	856
Sec. 4735.10. (A) (1) The Ohio real estate commission may	857
adopt reasonable rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the	858
Revised Code, necessary for implementing the provisions of this	859
chapter relating, but not limited to, the following:	860
(a) The form and manner of filing applications for	861
licensure;	862
(b) Times and form of examination for license;	863
(c) Placing an existing broker's license on deposit or a	864
salesperson's license on an inactive status for an indefinite	865
period;	866

(d) Specifying the process by which a licensee may resign	867
the licensee's license;	868
(e) Defining any additional license status that the	869
commission determines is necessary and that is not otherwise	870
defined in this chapter and establishing the process by which a	871
licensee places the licensee's license in a status defined by	872
the commission in the rules the commission adopts;	873
(f) Clarification of the activities that require a license	874
under this chapter;	875
(g) Permitting a broker to act as principal broker for	876
more than one brokerage.	877
(2) The commission shall adopt reasonable rules in	878
accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, for	879
implementing the provisions of this chapter relating to the	880
following:	881
(a) The issuance, renewal, suspension, and revocation of	882
licenses, other sanctions that may be imposed for violations of	883
this chapter, the conduct of hearings related to these actions,	884
and the process of reactivating a license;	885
(b) A three-year license and a three-year license renewal	886
system;	887
(c) Standards for the approval of the ten-hour	888
postlicensure courses as required by division (G) of section	889
4735.07 and division $\frac{\text{(I)}  \text{(J)}}{\text{(J)}}$ of section 4735.09 of the Revised	890
Code, courses of study required for licenses, courses offered in	891
preparation for license examinations, or courses required as	892
continuing education for licenses.	893
(d) Guidelines to ensure that continuing education classes	894

are open to all persons licensed under this chapter. The rules	895
shall specify that an organization that sponsors a continuing	896
education class may offer its members a reasonable reduction in	897
the fees charged for the class.	898
(e) Requirements for trust accounts and property	899
management accounts. The rules shall specify that:	900
(i) Brokerages engaged in the management of property for	901
another may, pursuant to a written contract with the property	902
owner, exercise signatory authority for withdrawals from	903
property management accounts maintained in the name of the	904
property owner. The exercise of authority for withdrawals does	905
not constitute a violation of any provision of division (A) of	906
section 4735.18 of the Revised Code.	907
(ii) The interest earned on property management trust	908
accounts maintained in the name of the property owner or the	909
broker shall be payable to the property owner unless otherwise	910
specified in a written contract.	911
(f) Notice of renewal forms and filing deadlines;	912
(g) Special assessments under division (A) of section	913
4735.12 of the Revised Code.	914
(B) The commission may adopt rules in accordance with	915
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code establishing standards and	916
guidelines with which the superintendent of real estate shall	917
comply in the exercise of the following powers:	918
(1) Appointment and recommendation of ancillary trustees	919
under section 4735.05 of the Revised Code;	920
(2) Rejection of names proposed to be used by	921
partnerships, associations, limited liability companies, limited	922

liability partnerships, and corporations, under division $\frac{(A)}{(B)}$	923
of section 4735.06 of the Revised Code, including procedures for	924
the application and approval of more than one trade name for a	925
<pre>brokerage;</pre>	926
(3) Acceptance and rejection of applications to take the	927
broker and salesperson examinations and licensure, with	928
appropriate waivers pursuant to division (E) of section 4735.07	929
and section 4735.09 of the Revised Code;	930
(4) Approval of applications of brokers to place their	931
licenses in an inactive status and to become salespersons under	932
section 4735.13 of the Revised Code;	933
(5) Appointment of hearing examiners under section 119.09	934
of the Revised Code;	935
(6) Acceptance and rejection of applications to take the	936
foreign real estate dealer and salesperson examinations and	937
licensure, with waiver of examination, under sections 4735.27	938
and 4735.28 of the Revised Code;	939
(7) Qualification of foreign real estate under section	940
4735.25 of the Revised Code.	941
If at any time there is no rule in effect establishing a	942
guideline or standard required by this division, the	943
superintendent may adopt a rule in accordance with Chapter 119.	944
of the Revised Code for such purpose.	945
(C) The commission or superintendent may hear testimony in	946
matters relating to the duties imposed upon them, and the	947
president of the commission and superintendent may administer	948
oaths. The commission or superintendent may require other proof	949
of the honesty, truthfulness, and good reputation of any person	950
named in an application for a real estate broker's or real	951

estate salesperson's license before admitting the applicant to	952
the examination or issuing a license.	953
Sec. 4735.141. (A) Except as otherwise provided in this	954
division and in section 4735.13 of the Revised Code and except	955
for a licensee who has placed the licensee's license in resigned	956
status pursuant to section 4735.142 of the Revised Code, each	957
person licensed under section 4735.07 or 4735.09 of the Revised	958
Code shall submit proof satisfactory to the superintendent of	959
real estate that the licensee has satisfactorily completed	960
thirty hours of continuing education, as prescribed by the Ohio	961
real estate commission pursuant to section 4735.10 of the	962
Revised Code, on or before the licensee's birthday occurring	963
three years after the licensee's date of initial licensure, and	964
on or before the licensee's birthday every three years	965
thereafter. If the person is licensed as a broker or broker on	966
deposit, or acts as a management level licensee, the continuing	967
education shall include a three-hour course on the duties of a	968
principal broker and other issues involved in operating a real	969
estate brokerage. The continuing education may be completed by	970
either classroom instruction or distance education.	971
Persons licensed as real estate salespersons who	972
subsequently become licensed real estate brokers shall continue	973
to submit proof of continuing education in accordance with the	974
time period established in this section.	975
The requirements of this section shall not apply to any	976
disabled licensee as provided in division (E) of this section.	977
Each licensee who is seventy years of age or older, within	978
a continuing education reporting period, shall submit proof	979
satisfactory to the superintendent of real estate that the	980

licensee has satisfactorily completed—a both of the following:

education, including instruction in Ohio real estate law;	983
recently enacted state and federal laws affecting the real	984
estate industry; municipal, state, and federal civil rights law;	985
and canons of ethics for the real estate industry as adopted by	986
the commission;	987
(2) If licensed as a broker, broker on deposit, or acting	988
as a management level licensee, a three-hour continuing	989
education course on the duties of a principal broker and other	990
issues involved in operating a real estate brokerage.	991
The continuing education may be completed by either	992
classroom instruction or distance education. The required proof	993
of completion shall be submitted on or before the licensee's	994
birthday that falls in the third year of that continuing	995
education reporting period. A licensee who is seventy years of	996
age or older whose license is in an inactive status is exempt	997
from the continuing education requirements specified in this	998
section. The commission shall adopt reasonable rules in	999
accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to carry out	1000
the purposes of this paragraph.	1001
(B) The continuing education requirements of this section	1002
shall be completed in schools, seminars, and educational	1003
institutions approved by the commission. Such approval shall be	1004
given according to rules established by the commission under the	1005
procedures of Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, and shall not be	1006
limited to institutions providing two-year or four-year degrees.	1007
Each school, seminar, or educational institution approved under	1008
this division shall be open to all licensees on an equal basis.	1009
(C) If the requirements of this section are not met by a	1010
licensee within the period specified, the licensee's license	1011

(1) A total of nine classroom hours of continuing

shall be suspended automatically without the taking of any	1012
action by the superintendent. The superintendent shall notify	1013
the licensee of the license suspension, and such notification	1014
shall be sent by regular mail to the personal residence address	1015
of the licensee that is on file with the division. Any license	1016
so suspended shall remain suspended until it is reactivated by	1017
the superintendent. No such license shall be reactivated until	1018
it is established, to the satisfaction of the superintendent,	1019
that the requirements of this section have been met. If the	1020
requirements of this section are not met within twelve months	1021
from the date the license was suspended, the license shall be	1022
revoked automatically without the taking of any action by the	1023
superintendent.	1024

- (D) If the license of a real estate broker is suspended pursuant to division (C) of this section, the license of a real estate salesperson associated with that broker correspondingly is suspended pursuant to division (H) of section 4735.20 of the Revised Code. A sole broker shall notify affiliated salespersons of the suspension in writing within three days of receiving the notice required by division (C) of this section.
- (1) The suspended license of the associated real estate salesperson shall be reactivated and no fee shall be charged or collected for that reactivation if that broker subsequently submits proof to the superintendent that the broker has complied with the requirements of this section and requests that the broker's license as a real estate broker be reactivated, and the superintendent then reactivates the broker's license as a real estate broker.
- (2) If the real estate salesperson submits an application 1040 to leave the association of the suspended broker in order to 1041

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associate with a different broker, the suspended license of the	1042
associated real estate salesperson shall be reactivated and no	1043
fee shall be charged or collected for that reactivation. The	1044
superintendent may process the application regardless of whether	1045
the licensee's license is returned to the superintendent.	1046

Any person whose license is reactivated pursuant to this division shall comply with the requirements of this section and otherwise be in compliance with this chapter.

(E) Any licensee who is a disabled licensee at any time 1050 during the last three months of the third year of the licensee's 1051 continuing education reporting period may receive an extension 1052 of time as deemed appropriate by the superintendent to submit 1053 proof to the superintendent that the licensee has satisfactorily 1054 completed the required thirty hours of continuing education. To 1055 receive an extension of time, the licensee shall submit a 1056 request to the division of real estate for the extension and 1057 proof satisfactory to the commission that the licensee was a 1058 disabled licensee at some time during the last three months of 1059 the three-year reporting period. The proof shall include, but is 1060 not limited to, a signed statement by the licensee's attending 1061 physician describing the disability, certifying that the 1062 1063 licensee's disability is of such a nature as to prevent the licensee from attending any instruction lasting at least three 1064 hours in duration, and stating the expected duration of the 1065 disability. The licensee shall request the extension and provide 1066 the physician's statement to the division no later than one 1067 month prior to the end of the licensee's three-year continuing 1068 education reporting period, unless the disability did not arise 1069 until the last month of the three-year reporting period, in 1070 which event the licensee shall request the extension and provide 1071 the physician's statement as soon as practical after the 1072

occurrence of the disability. A licensee granted an extension	1073
pursuant to this division who is no longer a disabled licensee	1074
and who submits proof of completion of the continuing education	1075
during the extension period, shall submit, for future continuing	1076
education reporting periods, proof of completion of the	1077
continuing education requirements according to the schedule	1078
established in division (A) of this section.	1079
(F) The superintendent shall not renew a license if the	1080

- (F) The superintendent shall not renew a license if the 1080 licensee fails to comply with this section, and the licensee 1081 shall be required to pay the penalty fee provided in section 1082 4735.14 of the Revised Code. 1083
- (G) A licensee shall submit proof of completion of the 1084 required continuing education with the licensee's notice of 1085 renewal. The proof shall be submitted in the manner provided by 1086 the superintendent.
- Sec. 4735.142. (A) Any person licensed under section 1088
  4735.07 or 4735.09 of the Revised Code, at any time prior to the 1089
  date the licensee is required to file a notice of renewal 1090
  pursuant to division (B) of section 4735.14 of the Revised Code 1091
  may apply to the superintendent of real estate and professional 1092
  licensing to place the licensee's license in a permanently 1093
  resigned status. 1094
- (B) A licensee, at any time during which a license has 1095 been suspended pursuant to division (G) of section 4735.07, 1096 division (I) of section 4735.09, division (E) of section 1097 4735.12, division (C) of section 4735.14, division (C) of 1098 section 4735.141, or section 4735.182 of the Revised Code, may 1099 apply to the superintendent on a form prescribed by the 1100 superintendent to permanently resign the licensee's license 1101 voluntarily. The resignation of a license is considered to be 1102

final without the taking of any action by the superintendent.

- (C) If a person whose license is in a permanently resigned 1104 status pursuant to a request made under this section wishes to 1105 obtain an active or inactive license, the person shall apply for 1106 such a license in accordance with the requirements specified in 1107 section 4735.07 or 4735.09 of the Revised Code, as applicable, 1108 or in the rules adopted by the commission pursuant to division 1109 (A) of section 4735.10 of the Revised Code. 1110
- (D) If placing a broker's license in a permanently

  1111
  resigned status will result in the closure of the broker's

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  brokerage, the broker, within three days after applying to the

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  superintendent to place the license in a permanently resigned

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  status, shall provide to each salesperson associated with that

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  broker a written notice stating that fact.

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- (E) This section does not apply to any licensee whose 1117 license has been suspended pursuant to division (F) of section 1118 4735.181 of the Revised Code or due to disciplinary action 1119 ordered by the commission pursuant to section 4735.051 of the 1120 Revised Code.
- Sec. 4735.18. (A) Subject to section 4735.32 of the 1122 Revised Code, the superintendent of real estate, upon the 1123 1124 superintendent's own motion, may investigate the conduct of any licensee. Subject to section 4735.32 of the Revised Code, the 1125 Ohio real estate commission shall impose disciplinary sanctions 1126 upon any licensee who, whether or not acting in the licensee's 1127 capacity as a real estate broker or salesperson, or in handling 1128 the licensee's own property, is found to have been convicted of 1129 a felony or a crime of moral turpitude, and may impose 1130 disciplinary sanctions upon any licensee who, in the licensee's 1131 capacity as a real estate broker or salesperson, or in handling 1132

the licensee's own property, is found guilty of:	1133
(1) Knowingly making any misrepresentation;	1134
(2) Making any false promises with intent to influence,	1135
persuade, or induce;	1136
(3) A continued course of misrepresentation or the making	1137
of false promises through agents, salespersons, advertising, or	1138
otherwise;	1139
(4) Acting for more than one party in a transaction except	1140
as permitted by and in compliance with section 4735.71 of the	1141
Revised Code;	1142
(5) Failure within a reasonable time to account for or to	1143
remit any money coming into the licensee's possession which	1144
belongs to others;	1145
(6) Dishonest or illegal dealing, gross negligence,	1146
<pre>incompetency, or misconduct;</pre>	1147
(7)(a) By final adjudication by a court, a violation of	1148
any municipal or federal civil rights law relevant to the	1149
protection of purchasers or sellers of real estate or, by final	1150
adjudication by a court, any unlawful discriminatory practice	1151
pertaining to the purchase or sale of real estate prohibited by	1152
Chapter 4112. of the Revised Code, provided that such violation	1153
arose out of a situation wherein parties were engaged in bona	1154
fide efforts to purchase, sell, or lease real estate, in the	1155
licensee's practice as a licensed real estate broker or	1156
salesperson;	1157
(b) A second or subsequent violation of any unlawful	1158
discriminatory practice pertaining to the purchase or sale of	1159
real estate prohibited by Chapter 4112. of the Revised Code or	1160

any second or subsequent violation of municipal or federal civil	1161
rights laws relevant to purchasing or selling real estate	1162
whether or not there has been a final adjudication by a court,	1163
provided that such violation arose out of a situation wherein	1164
parties were engaged in bona fide efforts to purchase, sell, or	1165
lease real estate. For any second offense under this division,	1166
the commission shall suspend for a minimum of two months or	1167
revoke the license of the broker or salesperson. For any	1168
subsequent offense, the commission shall revoke the license of	1169
the broker or salesperson.	1170
(8) Procuring a license under this chapter, for the	1171
licensee or any salesperson by fraud, misrepresentation, or	1172
deceit;	1173
(9) Having violated or failed to comply with any provision	1174
of sections 4735.51 to 4735.74 of the Revised Code or having	1175
willfully disregarded or violated any other provisions of this	1176
chapter;	1177
(10) As a real estate broker, having demanded, without	1178
reasonable cause, other than from a broker licensed under this	1179
chapter, a commission to which the licensee is not entitled, or,	1180
as a real estate salesperson, having demanded, without	1181
reasonable cause, a commission to which the licensee is not	1182
entitled;	1183
(11) Except as permitted under section 4735.20 of the	1184
Revised Code, having paid commissions or fees to, or divided	1185
commissions or fees with, anyone not licensed as a real estate	1186
broker or salesperson under this chapter or anyone not operating	1187
as an out-of-state commercial real estate broker or salesperson	1188

under section 4735.022 of the Revised Code;

(12) Having falsely represented membership in any real	1190
estate professional association of which the licensee is not a	1191
member;	1192
(13) Having accepted, given, or charged any undisclosed	1193
commission, rebate, or direct profit on expenditures made for a	1194
principal;	1195
(14) Having offered anything of value other than the	1196
consideration recited in the sales contract as an inducement to	1197
a person to enter into a contract for the purchase or sale of	1198
real estate or having offered real estate or the improvements on	1199
real estate as a prize in a lottery or scheme of chance;	1200
(15) Having acted in the dual capacity of real estate	1201
broker and undisclosed principal, or real estate salesperson and	1202
undisclosed principal, in any transaction;	1203
(16) Having guaranteed, authorized, or permitted any	1204
person to guarantee future profits which may result from the	1205
resale of real property;	1206
(17) Having advertised or placed a sign on any property	1207
offering it for sale or for rent without the consent of the	1208
owner or the owner's authorized agent;	1209
(18) Having induced any party to a contract of sale or	1210
lease to break such contract for the purpose of substituting in	1211
lieu of it a new contract with another principal;	1212
(19) Having negotiated the sale, exchange, or lease of any	1213
real property directly with a seller, purchaser, lessor, or	1214
tenant knowing that such seller, purchaser, lessor, or tenant is	1215
represented by another broker under a written exclusive agency	1216
agreement, exclusive right to sell or lease listing agreement,	1217
or exclusive purchaser agency agreement with respect to such	1218

property except as provided for in section 4735.75 of the	1219
Revised Code;	1220
(20) Having offered real property for sale or for lease	1221
without the knowledge and consent of the owner or the owner's	1222
authorized agent, or on any terms other than those authorized by	1223
the owner or the owner's authorized agent;	1224
(21) Having published advertising, whether printed, radio,	1225
display, or of any other nature, which was misleading or	1226
inaccurate in any material particular, or in any way having	1227
misrepresented any properties, terms, values, policies, or	1228
services of the business conducted;	1229
(22) Having knowingly withheld from or inserted in any	1230
statement of account or invoice any statement that made it	1231
inaccurate in any material particular;	1232
(23) Having published or circulated unjustified or	1233
unwarranted threats of legal proceedings which tended to or had	1234
the effect of harassing competitors or intimidating their	1235
customers;	1236
(24) Having failed to keep complete and accurate records	1237
of all transactions for a period of three years from the date of	1238
the transaction, such records to include copies of listing	1239
forms, earnest money receipts, offers to purchase and	1240
acceptances of them, records of receipts and disbursements of	1241
all funds received by the licensee as broker and incident to the	1242
licensee's transactions as such, and records required pursuant	1243
to divisions (C)(4) and (5) of section 4735.20 of the Revised	1244
Code, and any other instruments or papers related to the	1245
performance of any of the acts set forth in the definition of a	1246
real estate broker;	1247

- (25) Failure of a real estate broker or salesperson to 1248 furnish all parties involved in a real estate transaction true 1249 copies of all listings and other agreements to which they are a 1250 party, at the time each party signs them; 1251
- (26) Failure to maintain at all times a special or trust 1252 bank account in a depository located in this state. The account 1253 shall be noninterest-bearing, separate and distinct from any 1254 personal or other account of the broker, and, except as provided 1255 in division (A)(27) of this section, shall be used for the 1256 deposit and maintenance of all escrow funds, security deposits, 1257 and other moneys received by the broker in a fiduciary capacity. 1258 The name, account number, if any, and location of the depository 1259 wherein such special or trust account is maintained shall be 1260 submitted in writing to the superintendent. Checks drawn on such 1261 special or trust bank accounts are deemed to meet the conditions 1262 imposed by section 1349.21 of the Revised Code. Funds deposited 1263 in the trust or special account in connection with a purchase 1264 agreement shall be maintained in accordance with section 4735.24 1265 of the Revised Code. 1266
- (27) Failure to maintain at all times a special or trust 1267 bank account in a depository in this state, to be used 1268 1269 exclusively for the deposit and maintenance of all rents, security deposits, escrow funds, and other moneys received by 1270 the broker in a fiduciary capacity in the course of managing 1271 real property. This account shall be separate and distinct from 1272 any other account maintained by the broker. The name, account 1273 number, and location of the depository shall be submitted in 1274 writing to the superintendent. This account may earn interest, 1275 which shall be paid to the property owners on a pro rata basis. 1276

Division (A) (27) of this section does not apply to brokers 1277

who are not engaged in the management of real property on behalf	1278
of real property owners.	1279
(28) Having failed to put definite expiration dates in all	1280
written agency agreements to which the broker is a party;	1281
(29) Having an unsatisfied final judgment or lien in any	1282
court of record against the licensee arising out of the	1283
licensee's conduct as a licensed broker or salesperson;	1284
(30) Failing to render promptly upon demand a full and	1285
complete statement of the expenditures by the broker or	1286
salesperson of funds advanced by or on behalf of a party to a	1287
real estate transaction to the broker or salesperson for the	1288
purpose of performing duties as a licensee under this chapter in	1289
conjunction with the real estate transaction;	1290
(31) Failure within a reasonable time, after the receipt	1291
of the commission by the broker, to render an accounting to and	1292
pay a real estate salesperson the salesperson's earned share of	1293
it;	1294
(32) Performing any service for another constituting the	1295
practice of law, as determined by any court of law;	1296
(33) Having been adjudicated incompetent for the purpose	1297
of holding the license by a court, as provided in section	1298
5122.301 of the Revised Code. A license revoked or suspended	1299
under this division shall be reactivated upon proof to the	1300
commission of the removal of the disability.	1301
(34) Having authorized or permitted a person to act as an	1302
agent in the capacity of a real estate broker, or a real estate	1303
salesperson, who was not then licensed as a real estate broker	1304
or real estate salesperson under this chapter or who was not	1305
then operating as an out-of-state commercial real estate broker	1306

or salesperson under section 4735.022 of the Revised Code;	1307
(35) Having knowingly inserted or participated in	1308
inserting any materially inaccurate term in a document,	1309
including naming a false consideration;	1310
(36) Having failed to inform the licensee's client of the	1311
existence of an offer or counteroffer or having failed to	1312
present an offer or counteroffer in a timely manner, unless	1313
otherwise instructed by the client, provided the instruction of	1314
the client does not conflict with any state or federal law;	1315
(37) Having failed to comply with section 4735.24 of the	1316
Revised Code;	1317
(38) Having acted as a broker without authority, impeded	1318
the ability of a principal broker to perform any of the duties	1319
described in section 4735.081 of the Revised Code, or impeded	1320
the ability a management level licensee to perform the	1321
<pre>licensee's duties.</pre>	1322
(B) Whenever the commission, pursuant to section 4735.051	1323
of the Revised Code, imposes disciplinary sanctions for any	1324
violation of this section, the commission also may impose such	1325
sanctions upon the broker with whom the salesperson is	1326
affiliated if the commission finds that the broker had knowledge	1327
of the salesperson's actions that violated this section.	1328
(C) The commission shall, pursuant to section 4735.051 of	1329
the Revised Code, impose disciplinary sanctions upon any foreign	1330
real estate dealer or salesperson who, in that capacity or in	1331
handling the dealer's or salesperson's own property, is found	1332
guilty of any of the acts or omissions specified or comprehended	1333
in division (A) of this section insofar as the acts or omissions	1334
pertain to foreign real estate. If the commission imposes such	1335

sanctions upon a foreign real estate safesperson for a violation	1336
of this section, the commission also may suspend or revoke the	1337
license of the foreign real estate dealer with whom the	1338
salesperson is affiliated if the commission finds that the	1339
dealer had knowledge of the salesperson's actions that violated	1340
this section.	1341
(D) The commission may suspend, in whole or in part, the	1342
imposition of the penalty of suspension of a license under this	1343
section.	1344
Sec. 4735.23. At the request of the superintendent of real_	1345
estate, the department of higher education may, in consultation	1346
with the division of real estate, perform a review of programs	1347
offered by an institution of higher education pursuant to	1348
division (B)(6)(a) or (b) of section 4735.07 and division (F)(6)	1349
of section 4735.09 of the Revised Code. The superintendent or	1350
the chancellor of higher education may request from the	1351
institution any information the superintendent or chancellor	1352
considers necessary to perform this review.	1353
Sec. 4735.24. (A) Except as otherwise provided in this	1354
section, when earnest money connected to a real estate purchase	1355
agreement is deposited in a real estate broker's trust or	1356
special account, the broker shall maintain that money in the	1357
account in accordance with the terms of the purchase agreement	1358
until one of the following occurs:	1359
(1) The transaction closes and the broker disburses the	1360
earnest money to the closing or escrow agent or otherwise	1361
disburses the money pursuant to the terms of the purchase	1362
agreement.	1363

(2) The parties provide the broker with <u>separate</u> written

instructions that both parties have signed that specify how the	1365
broker is to disburse the earnest money and the broker acts	1366
pursuant to those instructions.	1367
(3) The broker receives a copy of a final court order that	1368
specifies to whom the earnest money is to be awarded and the	1369
	1370
broker acts pursuant to the court order.	1370
(4) The earnest money becomes unclaimed funds as defined	1371
in division (M)(2) of section $169.02$ of the Revised Code and,	1372
after providing the notice that division (D) of section 169.03	1373
of the Revised Code requires, the broker has reported the	1374
unclaimed funds to the director of commerce pursuant to section	1375
169.03 of the Revised Code and has remitted all of the earnest	1376
money to the director.	1377
(B) A purchase agreement may provide that in the event of	1378
a dispute regarding the disbursement of the earnest money, the	1379
broker will return the money to the purchaser without notice to	1380
the parties unless, within two years from the date the earnest	1381
money was deposited in the broker's trust or special account,	1382
the broker has received one of the following:	1383
(1) Written instructions signed by both parties specifying	1384
how the money is to be disbursed;	1385
	1006
(2) Written notice that a court action to resolve the	1386
dispute has been filed.	1387
(C)(1) If the parties dispute the disbursement of the	1388
earnest money and the purchase agreement contains the provision	1389
described in division (B) of this section, not later than the	1390
first day of September following the two year anniversary date	1391
of the deposit of the earnest money in the broker's account, the	1392
broker shall return the earnest money to the purchaser unless	1393

the parties provided the broker with written instructions or a	1394
notice of a court action as described in division (B) of this	1395
section.	1396
(2) If the broker cannot locate the purchaser at the time	1397
the disbursement is due, after providing the notice that	1398
division (D) of section 169.03 of the Revised Code requires, the	1399
broker shall report the earnest money as unclaimed funds to the	1400
director of commerce pursuant to section 169.03 of the Revised	1401
Code and remit all of the earnest money to the director.	1402
Sec. 4735.51. As used in sections 4735.51 to 4735.74 of	1403
the Revised Code:	1404
(A) "Agency" and "Agencyagency relationship" mean a	1405
relationship in which a licensee represents another person in a	1406
real estate transaction.	1407
(B) "Agency agreement" means a contract between a licensee	1408
and a client in which the client promises to pay the broker a	1409
valuable consideration, or agrees that the licensee may receive	1410
a valuable consideration from another, for performing an act	1411
that requires a real estate license under this chapter.	1412
(C) "Agent" and "real estate agent" mean a person licensed	1413
by this chapter to represent another in a real estate	1414
transaction.	1415
(D) "Affiliated licensee" means a real estate broker or a	1416
real estate salesperson licensed by this chapter who is	1417
affiliated with a brokerage.	1418
(E) "Brokerage" means a corporation, partnership, limited	1419
partnership, association, limited liability company, limited	1420
liability partnership, or sole proprietorship issued a broker's	1421
license. "Brokerage" includes the affiliated licensees who have	1422

been assigned management duties that include supervision of	1423
licensees whose duties may conflict with those of other-	1424
affiliated licensees.	1425
(F)—"Client" means a person who has entered into an agency	1426
relationship with a licensee.	1427
$\frac{(G)}{(F)}$ "Confidential information" means all information	1428
that a client directs to be kept confidential or that if	1429
disclosed would have an adverse effect on the client's position	1430
in the real estate transaction, except to the extent the agent	1431
is required by law to disclose such information, and all	1432
information that is required by law to be kept confidential.	1433
(H) (G) "Contemporaneous offers" means offers to purchase	1434
or lease on behalf of two or more clients represented by the	1435
same licensee for the same property that the licensee knows, has	1436
known, or has reason to know will be taken under consideration	1437
by the owner or owner's authorized representative during the	1438
<pre>same period of time.</pre>	1439
(H) "Dual agency relationship" means any of the dual	1440
agency relationships set forth in section 4735.70 of the Revised	1441
Code.	1442
(I) "In-company transaction" means a real estate	1443
transaction in which the purchaser and seller are both	1444
represented by the same brokerage.	1445
(J) "Licensee" means any individual licensed as a real-	1446
estate broker or salesperson by the Ohio real estate commission-	1447
pursuant to this chapter.	1448
(K) "Management level licensee" means a licensee who is	1449
employed by or affiliated with a real estate broker and who has-	1450
supervisory responsibility over other licensees employed by or	1451

## affiliated with that real estate broker. 1452 (L)—"Purchaser" means a party in a real estate transaction 1453 who is the potential transferee of property. "Purchaser" 1454 includes a person seeking to buy property and a person seeking 1455 to rent property as a tenant or lessee. 1456 (M) "Real estate transaction" means any act that is 1457 described in division (A) of section 4735.01 of the Revised Code 1458 or that is related to the execution of an act described in that 1459 1460 section. (N)—(L)\_"Subagency" and "subagency relationship" mean an 1461 agency relationship in which a licensee acts for another 1462 licensee in performing duties for the client of that licensee. 1463 $(\Theta)$ (M) "Timely" means as soon as possible under the 1464 particular circumstances. 1465 Sec. 4735.65. (A) In representing a purchaser in an agency 1466 relationship, a licensee shall: 1467 (1) Seek a property at a price and with purchase or lease 1468 terms acceptable to the purchaser. Unless the client so directs, 1469 the licensee is not obligated to seek additional purchase or 1470 lease possibilities if the purchaser is a party to a contract to 1471 purchase property, or has entered into a lease or has extended a 1472 letter of intent to lease. 1473 (2) Within the scope of knowledge required for licensure, 1474 answer the purchaser's questions and provide information to the 1475 purchaser regarding any offers or counteroffers; 1476 (3) Assist the purchaser in developing, communicating, and 1477 presenting offers or counteroffers; 1478 (4) Present any offer to purchase or lease to the seller 1479

or the seller's agent in a timely manner, even if the property	1480
is subject to a contract of sale, lease, or letter of intent to	1481
lease, and accept delivery of and present any counteroffers to	1482
the purchaser in a timely manner;	1483
(5) Within the scope of knowledge required for licensure,	1484
answer the purchaser's questions regarding the steps the	1485
purchaser must take to fulfill the terms of any contract.	1486
(B) A licensee does not breach any duty or obligation to	1487
the purchaser by showing the same properties to other purchasers	1488
or by preparing or presenting contemporaneous offers to purchase	1489
or lease the same property. Prior to preparing a contemporaneous	1490
offer, a licensee shall disclose that fact to all clients for	1491
whom the licensee is preparing, presenting, or has prepared or	1492
presented contemporaneous offers to purchase or lease the same	1493
property and shall refer to another licensee any client that	1494
requests such referral.	1495
(1) The disclosure required by this section shall be	1496
provided in writing unless written disclosure cannot be	1497
delivered in a timely manner, in which case the licensee shall	1498
provide the disclosure verbally.	1499
(2) A licensee does not breach a duty of confidentiality	1500
to any client by disclosing the fact of contemporaneous offers,	1501
but shall maintain as confidential between the purchasers the	1502
identity of the purchasers and the terms of the offers.	1503
(C) A licensee does not breach any duty or obligation to	1504
the purchaser by acting as an agent or subagent for other	1505
purchasers, or as an agent or subagent for sellers, except that	1506
any dual agency relationship must be disclosed to a client	1507
pursuant to section 4735.71 of the Revised Code.	1508

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(C) (D) Nothing in this section shall be construed as	1509
permitting a licensee to perform any act or service that	1510
constitutes the practice of law.	1511
Section 2. That existing sections 4735.01, 4735.06,	1512
4735.07, 4735.09, 4735.10, 4735.141, 4735.142, 4735.18, 4735.24,	1513
4735.51, and 4736.65 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	1514