

SENATE FILE NO. SF0013

Residential Mortgage Practices Act.

Sponsored by: Joint Minerals, Business and Economic
Development Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to trade and commerce; creating the Wyoming
2 Residential Mortgage Practices Act to regulate mortgage
3 lenders and brokers; providing definitions; providing
4 requirements and fees; requiring reporting; providing for
5 enforcement; providing for civil and criminal penalties;
6 providing for rulemaking; making an appropriation; and
7 providing for an effective date.

8

9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 40-23-101 through 40-23-123 are
12 created to read:

13

14

CHAPTER 23

15

WYOMING RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE PRACTICES ACT

16

1 **40-23-101. Short title.**

2

3 This act may be cited as the "Wyoming Residential Mortgage
4 Practices Act."

5

6 **40-23-102. Definitions.**

7

8 (a) As used in this act:

9

10 (i) "Borrower" means a person who has applied to
11 a mortgage lender for a residential mortgage loan or on
12 whose behalf the mortgage lending and mortgage brokering
13 activities are conducted;

14

15 (ii) "Commissioner" means the state banking
16 commissioner;

17

18 (iii) "Control" means owning twenty-five percent
19 (25%) or more of the voting share of the licensee or having
20 the power to direct the licensee's management or policies;

21

22 (iv) "Division" means the division of banking
23 within the department of audit;

24

1 (v) "Licensee" means a person licensed under
2 this act;

3

4 (vi) "Mortgage broker" means any person, other
5 than those exempt under W.S. 40-23-105, who for
6 compensation, or in the expectation of compensation,
7 assists a person in obtaining or applying to obtain a
8 residential mortgage loan or holds himself out as being
9 able to assist a person in obtaining or applying to obtain
10 a residential mortgage loan;

11

12 (vii) "Mortgage brokerage agreement" means a
13 written agreement in which a mortgage broker agrees to
14 assist the borrower in obtaining a residential mortgage
15 loan;

16

17 (viii) "Mortgage brokering activities" means for
18 compensation, either directly or indirectly, assisting or
19 offering to assist in the preparation of an application for
20 a residential mortgage loan on behalf of a borrower, or
21 negotiating or offering to negotiate the terms or
22 conditions of a residential mortgage loan with any person
23 making residential mortgage loans;

24

1 (ix) "Mortgage lender" means any person, other
2 than those exempt under W.S. 40-23-105, who makes
3 residential mortgage loans to borrowers or holds himself
4 out as able to make mortgage loans;

5

6 (x) "Mortgage lending activities" means for
7 compensation, either directly or indirectly, accepting or
8 offering to accept applications for making residential
9 mortgage loans;

10

11 (xi) "Person" means an individual, sole
12 proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability
13 company or other entity, public or private;

14

15 (xii) "Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act"
16 means the act set forth in 12 U.S.C. § 2601 et seq., as
17 amended;

18

19 (xiii) "Regulation X" means regulation X as
20 promulgated by the United States department of housing and
21 urban development and codified in 24 CFR part 3500 et seq.,
22 as amended;

23

1 (xiv) "Regulation Z" means regulation Z as
2 promulgated by the board of governors of the federal
3 reserve system and codified in 12 CFR part 226 et seq., as
4 amended;

5

6 (xv) "Residential mortgage loan" means a first
7 mortgage loan made primarily for personal, family or
8 household use and primarily secured by a security interest
9 on residential real property;

10

11 (xvi) "Residential real property" means real
12 property improved by a one (1) to four (4) family dwelling;

13

14 (xvii) "Truth in Lending Act" means the act set
15 forth in 15 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq., as amended;

16

17 (xviii) "This act" means W.S. 40-23-101 through
18 40-23-123.

19

20 **40-23-103. Powers and duties of commissioner.**

21

22 (a) In addition to any other powers and duties
23 imposed upon the commissioner by law, the commissioner
24 shall:

1

2 (i) Perform any and all acts necessary to
3 promulgate, administer and enforce the provisions of this
4 act and any rules, regulations, orders, limitations,
5 standards, requirements or licenses issued under this act,
6 and to exercise all incidental powers as necessary to carry
7 out the purposes of this act;

8

9 (ii) Order any licensee to cease any activity or
10 practice which the commissioner deems to be deceptive,
11 dishonest, a violation of state or federal laws or
12 regulations or unduly harmful to the interests of the
13 public;

14

15 (iii) Conduct investigations, issue subpoenas,
16 and hold hearings as necessary to determine whether a
17 person has violated any provision of this act;

18

19 (iv) Conduct examinations of the books and
20 records of licensees and conduct investigations as
21 necessary and proper for the enforcement of the provisions
22 of this act and the rules promulgated under the authority
23 of this act;

24

1 (v) Issue orders that are necessary to execute,
2 enforce and effectuate the purposes of this act;

3

4 (vi) Require that all application, renewal,
5 licensing, examination and all other fees included under
6 this act shall be deposited by the commissioner with the
7 state treasurer into the financial institutions
8 administration account within the earmarked revenue fund.

9

10 **40-23-104. License requirements.**

11

12 (a) With the exception of those persons exempt
13 pursuant to W.S. 40-23-105, on and after July 1, 2005, no
14 person shall engage in mortgage lending activities or
15 mortgage brokering activities without first obtaining a
16 license in accordance with this act.

17

18 (b) A person engaged in mortgage lending or mortgage
19 brokering activities who advertises, offers or provides
20 services to Wyoming residents through any medium including,
21 but not limited to, internet or other electronic means
22 shall first obtain a license in accordance with this act.

23

24 **40-23-105. Exemptions from license requirements.**

1

2 (a) The provisions of this act do not apply to:

3

4 (i) Agencies of the United States and agencies
5 of this state and its political subdivisions;

6

7 (ii) An owner of real property who offers credit
8 secured by a contract of sale, mortgage or deed of trust on
9 the property sold;

10

11 (iii) Any person licensed or chartered under the
12 laws of any state or the United States as a bank, savings
13 and loan association, credit union, or trust company or an
14 operating subsidiary of which the person owns or controls
15 eighty percent (80%) or more of the voting stock;

16

17 (iv) An attorney licensed to practice law in
18 Wyoming who is not principally engaged in the business of
19 negotiating residential mortgage loans when the attorney
20 renders services in the course of his practice as an
21 attorney;

22

23 (v) Persons employed by or under contract with
24 licensees on a full-time basis or persons who are employed

1 by or under contract with no more than one (1) licensee on
2 a part-time basis provided that any fees paid by borrowers
3 are paid to the licensee or exempt entity and not to the
4 employee or person under contract;

5

6 (vi) Any person who funds a residential mortgage
7 loan which has been originated and processed by a licensee
8 or by an exempt person, who does not directly or indirectly
9 solicit borrowers in Wyoming for the purpose of making
10 residential mortgage loans, and who does not participate in
11 the negotiation of residential mortgage loans with the
12 borrower. For the purpose of this paragraph, "negotiation
13 of residential mortgage loans" does not include setting the
14 terms under which a person may buy or fund a residential
15 mortgage loan originated by a licensee or exempt person.

16

17 **40-23-106. Initial licensing and compliance.**

18

19 A person conducting mortgage lending or mortgage brokering
20 activities, as of July 1, 2005 shall, not later than
21 September 30, 2005, apply to the commissioner for a
22 license.

23

1 **40-23-107. Application for license to do business as**
2 **a mortgage lender or mortgage broker.**

3
4 (a) The commissioner shall receive and act on all
5 applications for licenses to do business as a mortgage
6 lender or mortgage broker. Applications shall be filed in
7 the manner prescribed by the commissioner, shall contain
8 such information as prescribed by the commissioner, shall
9 be updated as prescribed by the commissioner to keep the
10 information current, and shall be accompanied by an
11 application fee not to exceed one thousand dollars
12 (\$1,000.00) for the home office location and an amount not
13 to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each additional
14 location, as set by rule of the commissioner. When an
15 application for licensure is denied or withdrawn, the
16 commissioner shall retain all fees paid by the applicant.

17
18 (b) An application for license may be granted if the
19 commissioner finds:

20
21 (i) The financial responsibility and experience,
22 character and fitness of the license applicant, of the
23 owners or persons in charge of the applicant and
24 individuals designated in charge of the applicant's places

1 of business, are such as to warrant belief that the
2 business will be operated honestly and fairly within the
3 purposes of this act;

4

5 (ii) The applicant has not been convicted of any
6 felony or a misdemeanor involving any aspect of the
7 business;

8

9 (iii) The applicant has not been the subject of
10 any administrative action or enforcement proceeding by any
11 state or federal government agency involving fines,
12 penalties or the revocation or suspension of any license or
13 authority substantially equivalent to a license under this
14 act;

15

16 (iv) The applicant has not filed an application
17 for a license which is false or misleading with respect to
18 any material fact;

19

20 (v) The applicant has not violated this act or
21 any rule or order lawfully made pursuant to this act; or

22

1 (vi) The applicant has provided information on
2 the application as required by the commissioner pursuant to
3 subsection (a) of this section.

4

5 (c) The commissioner is empowered to conduct
6 investigations as deemed necessary to determine the
7 existence of the requirements in subsection (b) of this
8 section.

9

10 (d) Upon written request, an applicant is entitled to
11 a hearing on the question of his qualifications for a
12 license if:

13

14 (i) The commissioner has notified the applicant
15 in writing that his application has been denied, or
16 objections to the application have been filed with the
17 commissioner;

18

19 (ii) The commissioner has not issued a license
20 within sixty (60) days after a complete application for the
21 license was filed.

22

23 (e) If a hearing is held, the applicant and those
24 filing objections shall reimburse, pro rata, the

1 commissioner for his reasonable and necessary expenses
2 incurred as a result of the hearing. Notwithstanding any
3 provision under the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act, a
4 request for hearing shall not be made more than fifteen
5 (15) days after the applicant has received notification by
6 certified mail that the application has been denied and
7 stating in substance the commissioner's finding supporting
8 denial of the application or that objections have been
9 filed and the substance thereof.

10

11 (f) Every licensee shall license and maintain a home
12 office as a principal location for the transaction of
13 mortgage business. A separate license shall be required
14 for each place of business from which mortgage brokering
15 activities or mortgage lending activities are directly or
16 indirectly conducted. The commissioner may issue
17 additional licenses to the same applicant upon compliance
18 with all the provisions of this act governing the issuance
19 of a single license. Each license shall remain in full
20 force and effect unless the licensee does not satisfy the
21 renewal requirements of W.S. 40-23-109, or the license is
22 relinquished, suspended or revoked. Licenses shall be
23 terminated upon the relinquishment or revocation of a home
24 office license.

1

2 (g) No licensee shall change the location of any
3 place of business, consolidate two (2) or more locations,
4 open a new location or close any location, without giving
5 the commissioner prior written notice and paying a license
6 modification fee not to exceed one hundred dollars
7 (\$100.00) as set by rule of the commissioner.

8

9 (h) A licensee shall not engage in the business of
10 making or brokering residential mortgage loans at any place
11 of business for which he does not hold a license nor shall
12 he engage in business under any other name than that on the
13 license without the approval of the commissioner.

14

15 (j) The commissioner may suspend action upon a
16 license application pending resolution of any criminal
17 charges, before any court of competent jurisdiction,
18 against an applicant which would disqualify that applicant
19 if convicted.

20

21 (k) An applicant shall make complete disclosure of
22 all information required in the application, including
23 information concerning officers, directors, partners,
24 members, managers or employees.

1

2

40-23-108. Change in control of a licensee.

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(a) A licensee shall give the commissioner written notice of a proposed change of control of a licensee within fifteen (15) business days after learning of the proposed change of control.

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(b) The commissioner may require the licensee to provide additional information concerning the proposed persons in control of the licensee. The additional information shall be limited to the same information required of the licensee or persons in control of the licensee as part of its original license or renewal application.

(c) The licensee shall reapply and submit the required fees established by rule, not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for a home office location and an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each additional location upon a change in the control of the licensee as determined by the commissioner. The license is not transferable nor assignable to the new persons in control of the licensee.

1

2 (d) Before filing a request for approval to acquire
3 control, a person may request in writing a determination
4 from the commissioner as to whether the person would be
5 considered a person in control of a licensee upon
6 consummation of a proposed transaction. If the
7 commissioner determines that the person would not be a
8 person in control of a licensee, the commissioner shall
9 enter an order stating the proposed person and transaction
10 is not subject to the requirements of subsections (a)
11 through (c) of this section.

12

13 **40-23-109. License renewal and annual report.**

14

15 (a) Each license issued under this act shall expire
16 on June 30. The license shall be renewed annually not less
17 than thirty (30) days before the stated expiration date.
18 The renewal fee for each license shall not exceed one
19 thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for the home office location
20 and an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00)
21 for each additional location, as set by rule of the
22 commissioner.

23

1 (b) The renewal fee shall be accompanied by a report,
2 in a form prescribed by the commissioner, which shall
3 include:

4
5 (i) Any material changes to any of the
6 information submitted by the licensee on its original
7 application which have not been reported previously to the
8 commissioner on any other report required to be filed under
9 this act;

10

11 (ii) Any update necessary on the surety bond;

12

13 (iii) Any update on civil or criminal
14 proceedings against the licensee or any administrative or
15 enforcement proceedings by any state or federal government
16 agency involving fines, penalties or the revocation or
17 suspension of any business licensee or authority
18 substantially equivalent to a license under this act;

19

20 (iv) Any other information as the commissioner
21 may deem necessary.

22

23 **40-23-110. Surety bonds.**

24

1 (a) All licensees shall maintain a surety bond to the
2 state of Wyoming in accordance with this section. The bond
3 to be maintained shall be in the amount of twenty-five
4 thousand dollars (\$25,000.00). This amount shall be
5 increased by an additional sum of ten thousand dollars
6 (\$10,000.00) for each licensed office. The bond shall be a
7 continuing obligation of the issuing surety. The surety's
8 liability under the bond for any claims made under the bond
9 either individually or in the aggregate shall in no event
10 exceed the face amount of the bond issued. The bond shall
11 be issued by a surety authorized to do business in the
12 state of Wyoming. The bond, including any and all riders
13 and endorsements executed subsequent to the effective date
14 of the bond, shall be placed on file with the commissioner.

15

16 (b) In the event that a licensee or person employed
17 by or under contract with a licensee has violated any of
18 the provisions of this act or of a rule or order lawfully
19 made pursuant to this act, or federal law or regulation
20 pertaining to the mortgage lending or mortgage brokering,
21 and has damaged any person by such violation, then the bond
22 shall be forfeited and paid by the surety to the state of
23 Wyoming for the benefit of any person so damaged.

24

1 **40-23-111. Examinations and investigations.**

2

3 (a) The commissioner may conduct examinations of any
4 licensee under this act at intervals he deems necessary to
5 determine compliance with this act and other applicable
6 laws, rules and regulations.

7

8 (b) The commissioner may at any time investigate the
9 loans or business books and records of any licensee or
10 person engaged in mortgage lending or mortgage brokering
11 activities for the purpose of determining compliance with
12 this act or securing information required under this act.
13 For these purposes, the commissioner shall have free and
14 reasonable access to the offices, places of business, books
15 and records of the licensee.

16

17 (c) If a licensee's or person's records are located
18 outside this state, the licensee or person shall have the
19 option to make them available to the commissioner at a
20 convenient location within this state, or pay the
21 reasonable and necessary expenses for the commissioner or
22 his representative to examine them at the place where they
23 are maintained. The commissioner may designate
24 representatives, including comparable officials of the

1 state in which the records are located, to inspect them on
2 his behalf.

3

4 (d) Each licensee or person subject to examination or
5 investigation under this act shall pay to the commissioner
6 an amount assessed by the commissioner to cover the direct
7 and indirect cost of examinations or investigations
8 conducted pursuant to this section not to exceed one
9 hundred dollars (\$100.00) per hour.

10

11 **40-23-112. Records; confidentiality of records;**
12 **exception.**

13

14 (a) Every licensee shall maintain records in
15 conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in
16 a manner that will enable the commissioner to determine
17 whether the licensee is complying with the provisions of
18 this act. The recordkeeping system of a licensee shall be
19 sufficient if he makes the required information available.
20 The records need not be kept in the place of business where
21 residential mortgage loans are made, if the commissioner is
22 given free access to the records wherever located. The
23 records pertaining to any loan shall be retained for the

1 period of twenty-five (25) months from the date of loan
2 closing.

3

4 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this
5 section, all information or reports obtained by the
6 commissioner from an applicant or licensee are
7 confidential.

8

9 (c) The commissioner may disclose confidential
10 information to mortgage lending or mortgage brokering
11 supervisory agencies in other states or to federal
12 regulatory authorities or to appropriate prosecuting
13 attorneys.

14

15 (d) The commissioner may enter into cooperative,
16 coordinating or information sharing agreements with any
17 other supervisory agency or any organization affiliated
18 with or representing one (1) or more mortgage lending or
19 mortgage brokering supervisory agencies with respect to the
20 periodic examination or other supervision of any office in
21 Wyoming of an out-of-state licensee, and the commissioner
22 may accept such parties' reports of examination and reports
23 of investigation in lieu of conducting his own examinations
24 or investigations.

1

2 (e) The commissioner may enter into contracts with
3 any mortgage lending or mortgage brokering supervisory
4 agency having concurrent jurisdiction over a Wyoming
5 licensee pursuant to this act to engage the services of the
6 agency's examiners at a reasonable rate of compensation.
7 Any such contract shall not be subject to the provisions of
8 W.S. 9-2-1016(b).

9

10 (f) This section does not prohibit the commissioner
11 from disclosing to the public a list of persons licensed
12 under this act.

13

14 **40-23-113. Disclosure of mortgage lender fees.**

15

16 (a) Within three (3) working days of taking a
17 mortgage loan application and prior to receiving any
18 consideration, other than third party fees, from the
19 borrower, the mortgage lender shall:

20

21 (i) Disclose the terms of the loan to the
22 borrower in compliance with the disclosure requirements of
23 the federal Truth-in-Lending Act and its associated

1 regulations, and the federal Real Estate Settlement
2 Procedures Act and its associated regulations;

3

4 (ii) If a prepayment penalty may be a condition
5 of the residential mortgage loan offered to a borrower,
6 that fact shall be separately disclosed in writing to the
7 borrower and the borrower shall agree in writing to accept
8 that condition. The disclosure shall state that a
9 prepayment penalty provision imposes a charge if the
10 borrower refinances or pays off the mortgage loan before
11 the date for repayment stated in the loan agreement. The
12 written disclosure shall be in a form prescribed by the
13 commissioner and shall be delivered at the same time the
14 borrower is given the federal Truth-in-Lending Act
15 disclosure.

16

17 (b) With the exception of a loan cancellation fee, a
18 licensed mortgage lender shall not require a borrower to
19 pay any fees or charges prior to a residential mortgage
20 loan closing, except:

21

22 (i) Charges actually incurred by the licensee on
23 behalf of the borrower for services which have been
24 rendered by third parties necessary to process the

1 application. These fees may include, but are not limited
2 to, fees for credit reports, flood insurance
3 certifications, property inspections, title insurance
4 commitments, uniform commercial code article 4 lien
5 searches, and appraisals;

6

7 (ii) A rate lock in fee; and

8

9 (iii) A commitment fee upon approval of the
10 residential mortgage loan.

11

12 (c) A loan cancellation fee may be charged and
13 collected by a licensee at any time either prior to the
14 scheduled closing of a residential mortgage loan
15 transaction or subsequent thereto.

16

17 (d) Any fees charged under the authority of this
18 section shall be reasonable and customary as to the type
19 and the amount of the fee charged.

20

21 **40-23-114. Disclosure of mortgage broker fees.**

22

23 (a) Within three (3) business days of a borrower
24 signing a completed mortgage loan application and before

1 the borrower provides any consideration to the licensee,
2 the licensee shall execute and deliver to the borrower a
3 mortgage brokerage agreement. The mortgage brokerage
4 agreement shall be in writing, signed and dated by both the
5 borrower and the authorized representative of the licensed
6 mortgage broker whose services to the borrower constitute
7 mortgage brokering.

8

9 (b) The mortgage brokerage agreement shall be the
10 only agreement between the borrower and licensee with
11 respect to a single mortgage loan transaction, except that
12 the licensed mortgage broker shall also provide to the
13 borrower disclosure statements necessary to comply with the
14 federal Truth-in-Lending Act and its associated
15 regulations, the federal Real Estate Settlement Procedures
16 Act and its associated regulations, and any other
17 applicable federal and state requirements.

18

19 (c) A licensed mortgage broker shall not require a
20 borrower to pay any fees or charges prior to the mortgage
21 loan closing, except charges actually incurred by the
22 licensed mortgage broker on behalf of the borrower for
23 services from third parties necessary to process the

1 mortgage loan application, such as credit reports and
2 appraisals.

3

4 (d) A mortgage broker shall not charge any fee that
5 inures to the benefit of the mortgage broker if it exceeds
6 the fee disclosed on the most recent good faith estimate
7 unless:

8

9 (i) The need to charge the higher fee was not
10 reasonably foreseeable at the time the good faith estimate
11 was written; and

12

13 (ii) The mortgage broker has provided to the
14 borrower, no less than three (3) business days prior to the
15 signing of the mortgage loan closing documents, a clear
16 written explanation of the increase in the fee and the
17 reason for charging a fee that exceeds that which was
18 previously disclosed.

19

20 (e) If the fee was originally disclosed as a
21 percentage of the mortgage loan amount, and the dollar
22 amount of the fee increases because the mortgage loan
23 amount increases, but the fee as a percentage of the
24 mortgage loan amount does not change, then no redisclosure

1 shall be required unless the fee increased by more than one
2 thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).

3

4 **40-23-115. Disclosure of loan terms by mortgage**
5 **broker.**

6

7 (a) Prior to entering into a written mortgage
8 brokerage agreement or accepting any consideration from the
9 borrower, a mortgage broker shall disclose in writing to
10 any borrower the following information:

11

12 (i) That the mortgage broker may not make
13 mortgage loans or issue loan commitments in its own name.
14 The mortgage broker may issue a loan commitment and may
15 furnish a lock-in of the interest rate and program on
16 behalf of the mortgage lender when the mortgage broker has
17 obtained a written or electronically transmitted loan
18 commitment or lock-in for the mortgage loan from the
19 mortgage lender on behalf of the borrower. The loan
20 commitment issued by the mortgage broker to the borrower on
21 behalf of the mortgage lender shall be in the same form and
22 substance as issued by the mortgage lender and shall
23 identify the mortgage lender by name;

24

1 (ii) That the mortgage broker cannot guarantee
2 acceptance into any particular mortgage loan program or
3 promise any specific mortgage loan terms or conditions;

4
5 (iii) A good faith estimate of the fees to be
6 collected, including a credit report fee, property
7 appraisal fee or any other third party fee;

8
9 (iv) The terms and conditions for obtaining a
10 refund of any fees or arranging for the transfer of third
11 party service work products to another mortgage lender or
12 mortgage broker, if any. The amount of any fees collected
13 in excess of the actual cost shall be returned within sixty
14 (60) days after rejection, withdrawal or closing.

15
16 (b) The fact that certain mortgage loan products
17 impose a prepayment penalty on the borrower and the amount
18 of, or the formula for calculating the prepayment penalty,
19 if any, and the terms of the prepayment penalty, if any,
20 shall be disclosed to the borrower as soon as they are
21 known, but no later than the issuance of the commitment, if
22 any, for the mortgage loan product chosen by the borrower.

23

24 **40-23-116. Trust accounts.**

1

2 All monies received from a borrower for payment of third
3 party provider services shall be deemed as held in trust
4 immediately upon receipt. All such trust funds shall be
5 deposited, prior to the end of the third business day
6 following receipt of the funds, in a trust account of a
7 federally insured financial institution. All trust account
8 funds collected under this act shall remain on deposit in a
9 noninterest bearing trust account until disbursement. The
10 trust account shall be designated and maintained for the
11 benefit of borrowers. Monies maintained in the trust
12 account shall be exempt from execution, attachment or
13 garnishment. A mortgage lender or mortgage broker shall
14 not in any way encumber the corpus of the trust account or
15 commingle any other operating funds with trust account
16 funds. Withdrawals from the trust account shall be only
17 for the payment of bona fide services rendered by a third
18 party provider or for refunds to a borrower.

19

20 **40-23-117. Prohibited practices.**

21

22 (a) No licensee or person required to have a license
23 shall:

24

1 (i) Pay compensation to, contract with or employ
2 in any manner, any person engaged in mortgage lending or
3 brokering activities who is not properly licensed unless
4 such person is exempt under W.S. 40-23-105;

5

6 (ii) Obtain any exclusive dealing or exclusive
7 agency agreement from any borrower;

8

9 (iii) Delay closing of any residential mortgage
10 loan for the purpose of increasing interest, costs, fees or
11 charges payable by the borrower;

12

13 (iv) Accept any fees at closing which were not
14 previously disclosed fully to the borrower;

15

16 (v) Obtain any agreement or instrument in which
17 blanks are left to be filled in after execution;

18

19 (vi) Engage in any misrepresentation in
20 connection with a residential mortgage loan;

21

22 (vii) Make payment, whether directly or
23 indirectly, of any kind to any in-house or fee appraiser
24 for the purpose of influencing the independent judgment of

1 the appraiser with respect to the value of any real estate
2 which is to be covered by a residential mortgage loan;

3

4 (viii) Make any false promises likely to
5 influence or persuade, or pursue a course of
6 misrepresentations and false promises through agents,
7 solicitors, advertising or otherwise;

8

9 (ix) Misrepresent, circumvent or conceal any of
10 the material particulars or the nature thereof, regarding a
11 transaction to which it is a party;

12

13 (x) Enter into any agreement, with or without
14 the payment of a fee, to fix in advance a particular
15 interest rate or other term in a residential mortgage loan
16 unless written confirmation of the agreement is delivered
17 to the borrower.

18

19 **40-23-118. License suspension or revocation.**

20

21 (a) The commissioner may suspend, not to exceed six
22 (6) months, or revoke a license if the commissioner finds:

23

1 (i) Any fact or condition exists that, if it had
2 existed at the time when the licensee applied for its
3 license, would have been grounds for denying the
4 application;

5

6 (ii) The licensee violated any provision of this
7 act or any rule or order validly promulgated by the
8 commissioner;

9

10 (iii) The licensee is conducting its business in
11 an unsafe or unsound manner;

12

13 (iv) The licensee refuses to permit the
14 commissioner to make any examination authorized by this
15 act;

16

17 (v) The licensee willfully fails to make any
18 report required by this act;

19

20 (vi) The competence, experience, character or
21 general fitness of the licensee indicates that it is not in
22 the public interest to permit the licensee to continue to
23 conduct business;

24

1 (vii) The bond of the licensee has been revoked;

2

3 (viii) The licensee or any partner, officer,
4 director, manager or employee of the licensee has been
5 convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving any aspect
6 of the financial services business;

7

8 (ix) The licensee or any partner, officer,
9 director, manager or employee of the licensee has had a
10 license substantially equivalent to a license under this
11 act, and issued by another state, denied, revoked or
12 suspended under the laws of that state;

13

14 (x) The licensee has filed an application for a
15 license which as of the date the license was issued, or as
16 of the date of an order denying, suspending or revoking a
17 license, was incomplete in any material respect or
18 contained any statement that was, in light of the
19 circumstances under which it was made, false or misleading
20 with respect to any material fact.

21

22 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the Wyoming
23 Administrative Procedure Act, if the commissioner finds
24 that probable cause for revocation of a license exists and

1 that enforcement of this act and the public interest
2 require immediate suspension of the license pending
3 investigation, he may, after a hearing upon five (5) days
4 written notice, enter an order suspending the license for
5 not more than thirty (30) days.

6
7 (c) The commissioner may, in his discretion,
8 reinstate a license, terminate a suspension or grant a new
9 license to a person whose license has been revoked or
10 suspended if no fact or condition then exists which clearly
11 would justify the commissioner in refusing to grant a
12 license.

13

14 **40-23-119. Orders to cease and desist.**

15

16 (a) If the commissioner determines that a violation
17 of this act or of a rule adopted or an order issued under
18 this act by a licensee is likely to cause immediate and
19 irreparable harm to the licensee, its customers or the
20 public as a result of the violation or cause insolvency of
21 the licensee, the commissioner may issue an order requiring
22 the licensee to cease and desist from the violation. The
23 order becomes effective upon service upon the licensee.

24

1 (b) If the commissioner determines that a person is
2 conducting mortgage lending or mortgage brokering activities
3 governed under this act without a valid license, the
4 commissioner may issue an order requiring the unlicensed
5 person to cease and desist from mortgage lending or mortgage
6 brokering activities. The order becomes effective upon
7 service upon the unlicensed person.

8

9 (c) Before issuing a final cease and desist order
10 under subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the
11 commissioner shall serve notice of intent to issue the
12 order upon the person being ordered to cease and desist.
13 The notice shall be in writing and shall direct the person
14 to discontinue the violations of law and cease and desist
15 mortgage lending or mortgage brokering activities. The
16 notice shall be served by certified mail return receipt
17 requested to the last known address of the person or shall
18 be served as provided by the Wyoming Rules of Civil
19 Procedure. Notice of the order shall include:

20

21 (i) A statement of the grounds for issuing the
22 proposed order, including a citation to the statute or rule
23 involved;

24

1 (ii) A statement of the facts in support of the
2 allegations;

3

4 (iii) A statement informing the person of the
5 right to a hearing on the order.

6

7 (d) In an emergency, the commissioner may petition
8 the district court for the issuance of a temporary
9 restraining order.

10

11 (e) An order to cease and desist becomes effective
12 upon service upon the person.

13

14 (f) An order to cease and desist remains effective
15 and enforceable pending the completion of an administrative
16 proceeding pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure
17 Act.

18

19 (g) A person served with an order to cease and desist
20 for violating this act may petition the district court for
21 a judicial order setting aside, limiting or suspending the
22 enforcement, operation or effectiveness of the order
23 pending the completion of an administrative proceeding
24 pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act.

1

2 (h) The commissioner shall commence a contested case
3 proceeding within twenty (20) days after issuing an order
4 to cease and desist.

5

6 **40-23-120. Consent orders.**

7

8 The commissioner may enter into a consent order at any time
9 with a person to resolve a matter arising under this act.
10 A consent order shall be signed by the person to whom it is
11 issued or by the person's authorized representative and
12 shall indicate agreement with the terms contained in the
13 order. A consent order may provide that it does not
14 constitute an admission by a person that this act or a rule
15 adopted or an order issued under this act has been
16 violated.

17

18 **40-23-121. Civil penalties.**

19

20 The commissioner may impose a civil penalty upon a person
21 who violates this act or a rule adopted or an order issued
22 under this act in an amount not to exceed five hundred
23 dollars (\$500.00) per day for each day the violation is
24 outstanding, plus the state's costs and expenses for the

1 investigation and prosecution of the matter, including
2 reasonable attorney's fees. Any penalties collected
3 pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the public
4 school fund of the appropriate county as required by
5 article 7, section 5 of the Wyoming constitution.

6

7 **40-23-122. Criminal penalties.**

8

9 (a) A person who intentionally makes a false
10 statement, misrepresentation or false certification in a
11 record filed or required to be maintained under this act or
12 who intentionally makes a false entry or omits a material
13 entry in the record is guilty of a felony, punishable by
14 not less than three (3) years imprisonment or a fine of not
15 less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), or both.

16

17 (b) An individual who knowingly engages in any
18 activity for which a license is required under this act,
19 without being licensed under this act is guilty of a felony
20 punishable by not less than three (3) years imprisonment or
21 a fine of not less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00),
22 or both.

23

1 (c) A person, except an individual, who knowingly
2 engages in any activity for which a license is required
3 under this act, without being licensed under this act is
4 guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less
5 than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00).

6

7 **40-23-123. Hearings.**

8

9 Except as otherwise provided in W.S. 40-23-108(c) and
10 40-23-109, the commissioner shall not suspend or revoke a
11 license, issue an order to cease and desist or assess a
12 civil penalty without notice and an opportunity to be
13 heard.

14

15 **Section 2.** There are authorized two (2) additional
16 positions to the department of audit, division of banking
17 for the purposes of implementing this act. There is
18 appropriated to the department of audit, division of
19 banking one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars
20 (\$175,000.00) from the financial institutions
21 administrations account within the earmarked revenue fund
22 for the period beginning with the effective date of this
23 act and ending June 30, 2006. A request of three hundred
24 fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000.00) from the financial

1 institutions administrations account within the earmarked
2 revenue fund shall be included in the department of audit,
3 division of banking's 2007-2008 biennium standard budget
4 request for purposes of continuing funding of this program
5 and these positions.

6

7 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
8 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
9 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
10 Constitution.

11

12

(END)