

Commission Meeting News

Key reports, issues, and decisions of interest to licensees and/or the public are reported here from the most recent Commission meetings:

Commission Meeting of July, 2017

Pending Cases: The Commission accepted the permanent voluntary surrender of one license; entered into consent agreements to suspend two licenses; ordered 13 hearings; and approved the issuance of four broker licenses on provisional status under certain conditions.

Report on License Renewals: Staff reported that as of July 11, 2017, 95% of brokers have renewed their real estate licenses (84,195), 98% of firms have renewed (11,443), and 70% of limited nonresident commercial brokers have renewed (202).

License Applications Involving Character Issues: Applications for licenses from persons who have character issues such as prior criminal convictions or disciplinary action by another licensing board are separately reviewed by the Commission. Decisions are made based upon criminal background checks, information supplied by the applicant, and in-person interviews. Total candidates reviewed: 39; total approved: 19.

Continuing Education: The Commission approved three new Update Course instructor applications, six new Update Course sponsors, 11 new elective courses, and 41 previously approved elective courses to be offered by other sponsors. As of May 31, 2017, there were 138 approved sponsors.

Report on Update Instructor Seminars: Staff reported that 121 of 179 approved instructors have already taken one of two offerings of the *Update* instructor seminars, thereby allowing them to teach the *Update* course to licensees throughout this license year. Staff will teach the course twice more in August.

Legislative Report: Staff reviewed with the Commission the Legislative Report and noted that the Legislature is in recess but is expected to return for at least two additional special sessions with the first one beginning August 3, 2017.

June License Examination Results: The Commission reviewed and discussed the *License Examination Results Summaries* setting out the passing rates for the license examination for the July 2016 – June 2017 period. A summary of key data relating to persons taking the examination for the first time is provided below:

	Individuals Tested for the First Time			
	Took prelicense course		Hold license from another state	
	June 2017	July 2016 through June 2017	June 2017	July 2016 through June 2017
# Tested	601	6540	59	773
% Pass both sections	63%	59%	N/A	N/A
% Pass National section	83%	81%	N/A	N/A
% Pass State section	66%	62%	29%	31%

Timeshare Project: The Commission approved the application of Bluegreen Vacations Unlimited, Inc, developer, for the timeshare project, *Blue Ridge Village*, located in Avery County, North Carolina.

Discussion on Broker's Duty to Retain Check Copies: Staff reviewed with the Commission the legal requirements for brokers to retain paper or electronic copies of checks received in connection with real estate transactions and the security of the personal information on checks and related documents.

State Board of Elections and State Ethics Commission Merging: The Commission reviewed information about the merger of the State Board of Elections and State Ethics Commission into the new, "State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement".

Emerging Trends: The Commission discussed wholesaling, noting an upcoming seminar in Charlotte, NC; news that Amazon is embarking on a real estate referral service; possible development of a Commission app for Android and iPhone - if practical and necessary; and Commission participation in and support of the Real Estate Educators Association..

Report on License Numbers: The Commission was advised that as of July 1, 2017, the Commission has 96,003 brokers and firms, as follows:

Active Brokers 60,737
Active Provisional Brokers 6,968
Inactive Brokers 23,669
Inactive Provisional Brokers 5,178
Firms 11,402
Brokers-in-Charge 16,061
BIC-Eligible Brokers 2,022

Next Commission Meeting: The next Commission meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 16, 2017, at Raleigh, North Carolina and is open to the public.