

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

ALFRED W. GROSS
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE



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STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION BUREAU OF INSURANCE

April 30, 2008

Administrative Letter 2008-07

To: All Title Insurers, Title Agencies and Agents and Other Interested Parties

Re: Title Insurance Legislation Enacted by the 2008 Virginia General Assembly

During the 2008 legislative session the Virginia General Assembly made certain changes to the Virginia Insurance Code as it relates to the licensing of title insurance agents and the Consumer Real Estate Settlement Protection Act as it relates to the financial responsibility requirements of settlement agents.

House Bill 431, <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?081+ful+CHAP0250>, amends § 38.2-1814.1 of the Code of Virginia by requiring applicants who wish to sit for a title license examination on or after July 1, 2008, to have completed a 16 hour preparatory pre-licensing education course.

Title licensing candidates WILL NOT be allowed to sit for the title examination unless they bring to the testing site the requisite notarized affidavit certifying pre-licensing education of 16 hours along with the course instructor's certification. The affidavit can be found on the Bureau's website <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/division/boi/webpages/boilicensingprocedures.htm>, the Virginia Insurance Licensing Candidate Handbook <http://www.asivcs.com/indhome.asp?CPCat=1253INS>, or the Pearson VUE website <http://www.pearsonvue.com>.

The pre-licensing education course may be comprised of, or include, any form of classroom education or distance education in accordance with the examination content outline in the Virginia Insurance Licensing Candidate Handbook.

Information regarding preparatory pre-licensing courses can be obtained by contacting the Virginia Land Title Association (VLTA) at 800-929-8730 or <http://vlta.org>; or a licensed title insurer with whom you are employed or appointed.

The second bill, Senate Bill 149, amends subsection D 3 of § 6.1-2.21 of the Consumer Real Estate Protection Act by increasing the surety bond coverage requirement from \$100,000 to \$200,000. This means that on or before July 1, 2008, all registered title settlement agents/agencies must submit either an original surety bond of not less than \$200,000 or a rider to the current bond increasing the amount of the bond to \$200,000.

Questions relating to matters of **pre-licensing education courses** should be directed to:

Agents Licensing Section
Virginia Bureau of Insurance
Agent Regulation and Administration Division
P.O. Box 1157
Richmond, Virginia 23218
(804) 371-9631

Questions relating to matters of **surety bond coverage requirements** should be directed to:

Martha Washington-Lynch
CRESPA Examiner
Virginia Bureau of Insurance
Agent Regulation and Administration Division
P.O. Box 1157
Richmond, Virginia 23218
(804) 371-9558

Cordially,



Alfred W. Gross
Commissioner of Insurance

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