



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION
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Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

Division of Commercial Licensing and
Racing and Athletics

BULLETIN REGARDING CHANGES TO R.I. GEN. LAWS § 5-20.5-1 et seq

On June 22, 2011, Governor Chafee signed Public Law 102, which includes changes to Title 5, Chapter 20.5, Real Estate Brokers and Salespersons. The law took effect upon passage. This Bulletin will serve as notice to Licensees and Pre-Licensees that the Department will begin to enforce the new provisions in the law **beginning on July 15, 2011.**

ALL LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKERS AND SALESPERSONS ARE REQUIRED TO KNOW WHAT IS CONTAINED IN THIS LAW, AND ARE ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW IT IN ITS ENTIRETY WITHOUT DELAY. The link to the new law is: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/PublicLaws/law11/law11102.htm>

Some important changes in the law include these:

FOR BROKER APPLICANTS: For any new Broker application received by the Department *on or before* July 15, 2011 the applicant is only required to have at least one (1) year of experience as a real estate salesperson, in addition to all other application requirements. **Any new broker application received after July 15, 2011 will require applicants to have gained at least *two (2) years* experience as a salesperson immediately preceding their application. Exceptions to this requirement are unchanged, and are set forth in § 5-20.5-4(b).**

New applicants for a broker's license is now only required to submit the names of at least three (3) Rhode Island residents who *will attest* to the applicant's reputation and recommend that the license be granted. There is no longer a requirement that the application form be signed by three persons who have owned property for three years.

FOR SALESPERSON LICENSEES: All salesperson license holders are now individually required to notify the Department as to any change of employment or broker affiliation immediately upon or prior to such change.

BOTH BROKERS AND SALESPERSONS LICENSEES: When renewing a license, it is now required that proof of completion of all continuing education courses be submitted at the time of renewal.

It is anticipated that the Department will begin processing applications and renewals electronically online sometime before the end of this calendar year. Some minor changes in the law allow for that,

but at the present time, the process for application and renewal remains unchanged. The procedures and forms may be found on the website in the Real Estate section, as in the past.

There are other changes in the law, which may affect you. All licensees are responsible for compliance with all provisions of this law. Again, you are advised to read it carefully and completely without delay.