



Department of Business Regulation

233 Richmond Street
Providence, RI 02903

Commercial Licensing Bulletin Number 2005-1

Real Estate Salespersons

Prelicensing Course Requirement

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify the requirements for the prelicensing course for applicants for a real estate salesperson's license pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-20.5-4(a) and (b).

R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-20.5-14(a) and (b) state as follows:

(a) The director shall require any applicant for a real estate broker's or salesperson's license to submit to and pass a written examination to show the applicant's knowledge of the state statutes and the rules and regulations relating to real property, deeds, mortgages, leases, contracts, and agency. An applicant shall not be required to take the uniform portion of the Rhode Island real estate licensing examination if the applicant provides sufficient evidence that the applicant possesses an existing valid real estate license from a state that has similar statutes or regulations in effect which provide for reciprocal waiver of the uniform portion of the real estate licensing examination for persons holding an existing valid Rhode Island real estate broker's or salesperson's license and the applicant has been licensed for a period of not less than two (2) consecutive years immediately prior to the date of his or her application; and further provided, that the applicant must be tested for the remainder of the Rhode Island real estate licensing examination as administered by the department of business regulation. An applicant for a real estate broker's or salesperson's license, prior to the taking of the examination, must pay an examination fee, the cost of which is limited to the charge as designated by the appropriate testing service's contract with the department of business regulation.

(b) An applicant for a real estate salesperson's license must submit satisfactory evidence of completion of a minimum of forty-five (45) classroom hours in a real estate course given by a school as defined in § 5-20.5-19. The applicant for a broker's license must also submit satisfactory proof that he or she has been engaged full time as a real estate salesperson for at least one year immediately prior to the date of application, except that the period is waived if the

applicant has received a baccalaureate degree with a major in real estate, from an accredited college or university; or has successfully completed at least ninety (90) hours of approved classroom study in a school as defined in § 5-20.5-19, or equivalent in a correspondence course offered by an extension department of an accredited college or university. The director, in his or her sole discretion, may require any additional evidence or proof, as to the honesty, trustworthiness, integrity, good reputation, and competency of any applicant.

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-20.5-4(a), an applicant for a real estate salesperson's license must file his or her license application and provide proof of his or her completion of the requisite forty-five (45) hour pre-licensing course taken at a licensed proprietary school with the Department of Business Regulation **prior** to taking the real estate salesperson's examination.

A pre-licensing course taken more than two (2) years prior to the date of the application for a real estate salesperson's license will not be acceptable to the Department of Business Regulation.

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