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THOMAS B. CONSIDINE Commissioner

BULLETIN NO. 11-07

TO: ALL LICENSED NEW JERSEY REAL ESTATE BROKERS

FROM: THOMAS B. CONSIDINE, COMMISSIONER

RE: GENERATION AND MAILING OF REAL ESTATE LICENSES

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify all real estate licensees that, commencing April 5, 2011 and continuing through a date yet to be determined, the Department of Banking and Insurance ("Department") will delay the issuance of paper licenses on all real estate licensing transactions. The delay will affect all transaction types, including renewals, applications for initial licensure, transfers, reinstatements, name changes, etc., either manually processed by the Real Estate Licensing Bureau or completed through the Real Estate On-line Licensing Services function.

Pursuant to recently enacted legislation (<u>P.L.</u> 2009 <u>c.</u> 238), as of July 1, 2011, individuals may be issued a license as a "Real Estate Referral Agent." It is anticipated that as many as 30,000 or more currently licensed individuals may apply to change their license type to that of a referral agent. Notification of the process to be used to apply for licensure as a referral agent will be provided in a future bulletin. In order to realize efficiencies and save the cost of printing and mailing two licenses for each person who renews their current license for the 2011-2013 license term and then applies for a license as a referral agent, it has been determined that NO LICENSES WILL BE PRINTED for any licensing transactions until such time as the computer system modifications required to generate referral agent licenses are completed.

To verify that applications for initial licensure as a salesperson, brokersalesperson or broker, and applications for the renewal, transfer or reinstatement of a license, or for any other license transaction have been successfully processed, brokers and individual licensees may access the "Licensee Search" function available on the Department's website at <u>https://www16.state.nj.us/DOBI_LicSearch/recSearch.jsp</u>. (After entering the licensee's name and license type and clicking on "actively licensed" from the license status drop-down list, and then clicking on the "Search" button, general information on the licensee will appear. By then clicking on the "Actively Licensed" box in the record on the individual who is the subject of the search, a printable screen containing detailed information on that licensee can be viewed and printed.) The data reflected on the Licensee Search reflects the official licensing record of the Department

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on the individual on whom the search is made. Generally, licensing transactions completed on-line through the <u>broker portal</u> are reflected on the Licensee Search database 48 hours after the electronic transaction is completed. Transactions completed on paper applications require additional time to process, so licensees should continue to check on the License Search function until evidence of the completion of the transaction appears. Brokers wishing to retain a paper record of a completed licensing transaction may print the screen on the individual who was the subject of the transaction that appears on the "Licensee Search" and confirms that the transaction was accomplished, and retain the printed screen as their record. (Brokers who use the On-line Licensing Services function can print the screen depicting the successfully completed transaction and retain that document as their licensing record, in lieu of going into the "Licensee Search" function to do so.) Confirmation of the status of completed renewal applications is provided through the on-line renewal system.

Upon the completion of the necessary system modifications following the 2011 renewal process and the processing of the large volume of applications for referral agent licensure anticipated to be submitted subsequent to July 1, 2011, the Department will print and mail to brokers the licenses of <u>all</u> persons licensed with their firms as of the date the licenses are printed, including those licensed as referral agents. Such licenses will reflect the processing of all renewals and of the other transactions referenced herein. NOTE: At this time, the Department does not expect the system modifications to be functional until mid-summer.

In the interim, persons initially licensed, and licensees who transfer to or reinstate their licenses with your firm may comply with the "pocket card" requirement imposed by <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 45:15-14 by having in their possession a copy of a print out from the Licensee Search function or from the On-line Licensing Services function that confirms that they are actively licensed with your firm.

The statements in this bulletin supersede any contrary information with respect to the mailing of licenses that may appear on any other forms or notices issued by the Department or the Real Estate Commission, including, but not limited to the Instructions for the 2011-2013 real estate license renewal process.

All interested parties should monitor the webpage of the Real Estate Commission where additional information will be posted as it becomes available.

Brokers are strongly urged to disseminate this bulletin to all broker-salespersons and salespersons licensed with their firms.

<u>April 6, 2011</u> Date

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