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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2009

AN ACT

RELATING TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Introduced By: Representative Brian P. Kennedy

Date Introduced: February 26, 2009

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Sections 19-14-1, 19-14-3, 19-14-7, 19-14-9, 19-14-22 and 19-14-23 of the
General Laws in Chapter 19-14 entitled "Licensed Activities" are hereby amended to read as
follows:

19-14-1. Definitions. -- For purposes of this chapter and Unless otherwise specified, the
following terms shall have the following meanings throughout chapters 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4,
14.6, 14.8 and 14.10 and 14.7 of this title:

(1) "Check" means any check, draft, money order, personal money order, or other

(1) "Check" means any check, draft, money order, personal money order, or other instrument for the transmission or payment of money. For the purposes of check cashing, travelers checks or foreign denomination instruments shall not be considered checks. "Check cashing" means providing currency for checks;

(2) "Deliver" means to deliver a check to the first person who in payment for the check makes or purports to make a remittance of or against the face amount of the check, whether or not the deliverer also charges a fee in addition to the face amount, and whether or not the deliverer signs the check;

(3) "Electronic money transfer" means receiving money for transmission within the United States or to locations abroad by any means including, but not limited to, wire, facsimile or other electronic transfer system;

18 (4) (i) "Lender" means any person who makes or funds a loan within this state with the 19 person's own funds, regardless of whether the person is the nominal mortgagee or creditor on the

2 (ii) A loan is made or funded within this state if any of the following conditions exist: 3 (A) The loan is secured by real property located in this state; 4 (B) An application for a loan is taken by an employee, agent, or representative of the 5 lender within this state; 6 (C) The loan closes within this state; 7 (D) The loan solicitation is done by an individual with a physical presence in this state; 8 or 9 (E) The lender maintains an office in this state. 10 (iii) The term "lender" shall also include any person engaged in a transaction whereby 11 the person makes or funds a loan within this state using the proceeds of an advance under a line 12 of credit over which proceeds the person has dominion and control and for the repayment of 13 which the person is unconditionally liable. This transaction is not a table funding transaction. A 14 person is deemed to have dominion and control over the proceeds of an advance under a line of 15 credit used to fund a loan regardless of whether: 16 (A) The person may, contemporaneously with or shortly following the funding of the 17 loan, assign or deliver to the line of credit lender one or more loans funded by the proceeds of an 18 advance to the person under the line of credit; 19 (B) The proceeds of an advance are delivered directly to the settlement agent by the line 20 of credit lender, unless the settlement agent is the agent of the line of credit lender; 21 (C) One or more loans funded by the proceeds of an advance under the line of credit is 22 purchased by the line of credit lender; or 23 (D) Under the circumstances as set forth in regulations adopted by the director or the 24 director's designee pursuant to this chapter; 25 (5) "Licensee" means an any person entity licensed under this chapter; 26 (6) "Loan" means any advance of money or credit including, but not limited to: 27 (i) Loans secured by mortgages; 28 (ii) Insurance premium finance agreements; 29 (iii) The purchase or acquisition of retail installment contracts or advances to the holders 30 of those contracts; 31 (iv) Educational loans; 32 (v) Any other advance of money; or 33 (vi) Any transaction such as those commonly known as "pay day loans," "pay day 34 advances," or "deferred presentment loans," in which a cash advance is made to a customer in

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instrument evidencing the loan;

- 1 exchange for the customer's personal check, or in exchange for the customer's authorization to
- debit the customer's deposit account, and where the parties agree either that the check will not be
- 3 cashed or deposited, or that customer's deposit account will not be debited, until a designated
- 4 future date.
- 5 (7) "Loan broker" means any person who, for compensation or gain, or in the expectation
- 6 of compensation or gain, either directly or indirectly, solicits, processes, negotiates, places or sells
- a loan within this state for others in the primary market, or offers to do so. A loan broker shall
- 8 also mean any person who is the nominal mortgagee or creditor in a table funding transaction. A
- 9 loan is brokered within this state if any of the following conditions exist:
- 10 (i) The loan is secured by real property located in this state;
- 11 (ii) An application for a loan is taken or received by an employee, agent or representative 12 of the loan broker within this state;
- 13 (iii) The loan closes within this state;
- 14 (iv) The loan solicitation is done by an individual with a physical presence in this state;
- 15 or
- 16 (v) The loan broker maintains an office in this state.
- 17 (8) "Personal money order" means any instrument for the transmission or payment of
- money in relation to which the purchaser or remitter appoints or purports to appoint the seller as
- 19 his or her agent for the receipt, transmission, or handling of money, whether the instrument is
- signed by the seller or by the purchaser or remitter or some other person;
- 21 (9) "Primary market" means the market in which loans are made to borrowers by lenders,
- 22 whether or not through a loan broker or other conduit;
- 23 (10) "Principal owner" means any person who owns, controls, votes or has a beneficial
- 24 interest in, directly or indirectly, ten percent (10%) or more of the outstanding capital stock
- and/or equity interest of a licensee;
- 26 (11) "Sell" means to sell, to issue, or to deliver a check;
- 27 (12) "Small loan" means a loan of less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), not secured
- 28 by real estate, made pursuant to the provisions of chapter 14.2 of this title;
- 29 (13) "Small loan lender" means a lender engaged in the business of making small loans
- 30 within this state;
- 31 (14) "Table funding transaction" means a transaction in which there is a
- 32 contemporaneous advance of funds by a lender and an assignment by the mortgagee or creditor of
- 33 the loan to the lender;
- 34 (15) "Check casher" means a person or entity that, for compensation, engages, in whole

or in part, in the business of cashing checks;

- 2 (16) "Deferred deposit transaction" means any transaction such as those commonly
- 3 known as "pay-day loans," "pay-day advances," or "deferred presentment loans" in which a cash
- 4 advance is made to a customer in exchange for the customer's personal check or in exchange for
- 5 the customer's authorization to debit the customer's deposit account and where the parties agree
- 6 either that the check will not be cashed or deposited, or that the customer's deposit account will
- 7 not be debited until a designated future date;
- 8 (17) "Insurance premium finance agreement" means an agreement by which an insured,
- 9 or prospective insured, promises to pay to an insurance premium finance company the amount
- 10 advanced or to be advanced, under the agreement to an insurer or to an insurance producer, in
- payment of a premium or premiums on an insurance contract or contracts, together with interest
- and a service charge, as authorized and limited by this title;
- 13 (18) "Insurance premium finance company" means a person engaged in the business of
- 14 making insurance premium finance agreements or acquiring insurance premium finance
- 15 agreements from other insurance premium finance companies;
- 16 (19) "Simple interest" means interest computed on the principal balance outstanding
- immediately prior to a payment for the actual number of days between payments made on a loan
- 18 over the life of a loan;
- 19 (20) "Nonprofit organization" means a corporation qualifying as a 26 U.S.C. section
- 20 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, in the operation of which no member, director, officer, partner,
- 21 employee, agent, or other affiliated person profits financially other than receiving reasonable
- 22 salaries if applicable;
- 23 (21) "Mortgage loan originator" means a natural person employee of a lender or loan
- 24 broker that is required to be licensed under Rhode Island general laws section 19-14-1 et seq., or
- 25 a provisional employee as defined herein, and who for or with the expectation of a fee,
- 26 commission or other valuable consideration (i) advises an applicant about different loan products
- 27 and their terms and conditions in order to permit the applicant to select and apply for a particular
- 28 loan product, or (ii) advises persons in completing loan applications by informing the applicant
- 29 regarding the benefits, terms and/or conditions of a loan product or service, or (iii) negotiates or
- 30 offers to negotiate the making of a loan with an applicant. A person whose activities are
- 31 ministerial and clerical is not acting as a mortgage loan originator has the same meaning set forth
- 32 <u>in subdivision 19-14.10-3(6)</u>;
- 33 (22) "Mortgage loan" means a loan secured in whole or in part by real property located
- in this state;

- (23) "Loan solicitation" shall mean an effectuation, procurement, delivery and offer, and advertisement of a loan. Loan solicitation also includes providing or accepting loan applications and assisting persons in completing loan applications and/or advising, conferring, or informing anyone regarding the benefits, terms and/or conditions of a loan product or service. Loan solicitation does not include loan processing or loan underwriting as defined in this section. Loan solicitation does not include telemarketing which is defined for purposes of this section to mean contacting a person by telephone with the intention of collecting such person's name, address and telephone number for the sole purpose of allowing a mortgage loan originator to fulfill a loan inquiry;
- (24) "Loan processing" "Processes" shall mean, with respect to a loan, any of a series of acts or functions including the preparation of a loan application and supporting documents performed by a person which leads to or results in the acceptance, approval, denial, and/or withdrawal of a loan application, including, without limitation, the rendering of services including loan underwriting, taking or receiving loan applications, obtaining verifications, credit reports or appraisals, communicating with the applicant and/or the lender or loan broker, and/or other loan processing and origination services for consideration by a lender or loan broker. Loan processing does not include the following:
- (A) The providing of title services, including title searches, title examinations, abstract preparation, insurability determinations, and the issuance of title commitments and title insurance policies, loan closings, preparation of loan closing documents when performed by or under the supervision of a licensed attorney, licensed title agency or licensed title insurance company; Providing loan closing services;
 - (B) Rendering of credit reports by an authorized credit reporting agency; and
- (C) Rendering of appraisal services.

- (25) "Loan underwriting" shall mean a loan process that involves the analysis of risk with respect to the decision whether to make a loan to a loan applicant based on credit, employment, assets, and other factors including evaluating a loan applicant against a lender's various lending criteria for creditworthiness, making a determination for the lender as to whether the applicant meets the lender's pre-established credit standards and/or making a recommendation regarding loan approval;
- (26) "Negotiate a loan Negotiates" shall mean, with respect to a loan, to confer directly with or offer advice directly to a loan applicant or prospective loan applicant for a loan product or service concerning any of the substantive benefits, terms, or conditions of the loan product or service;

(27) "Natural person employee" shall mean any natural person performing services as a
bona-fide employee for a person licensed under the provisions of Rhode Island general laws
section 19-14-1, et. seq., in return for a salary, wage, or other consideration, where such salary,
wage, or consideration is reported by the licensee on a federal form W-2 payroll record. The term
does not include any natural person or business entity performing services for a person licensed
under the provisions of Rhode Island general laws in return for a salary, wage, or other
consideration, where such salary, wage, or consideration is reported by the licensee on a federal
form 1099;

- (28) "Bona-fide employee" shall mean an employee of a licensee who works under the oversight and supervision of the licensee;
- (29) "Oversight and supervision of the licensee" shall mean that the licensee provides training to the employee, sets the employee's hours of work, and provides the employee with the equipment and physical premises required to perform the employee's duties;
- (30) "Operating subsidiary" shall mean a majority-owned subsidiary of a financial institution or banking institution that engages only in activities permitted by the parent financial institution or banking institution;
- (31) "Provisional employee" means a natural person who, pursuant to a written agreement between the natural person and a wholly owned subsidiary of a financial holding company, as defined in The Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, a bank holding company, savings bank holding company, or thrift holding company, is an exclusive agent for the subsidiary with respect to mortgage loan originations, and the subsidiary: (a) holds a valid loan broker's license and (b) enters into a written agreement with the director or the director's designee to include:
- (i) An "undertaking of accountability" in a form prescribed by the director or the director's designee, for all of the subsidiary's exclusive agents to include full and direct financial and regulatory responsibility for the mortgage loan originator activities of each exclusive agent as if said exclusive agent was an employee of the subsidiary;
- (ii) A business plan to be approved by the director or the director's designee, for the education of the exclusive agents, the handling of consumer complaints related to the exclusive agents, and the supervision of the mortgage loan origination activities of the exclusive agents;
- (iii) A restriction of the exclusive agents' mortgage loan originators' activities to loans to be made only by the subsidiary's affiliated bank; and
- 33 (32) [Effective December 31, 2008; see contingent effective date note.] "Multi-state 34 licensing system" means a system involving one or more states, the District of Columbia, or the

Commonwealth of Puerto Rico established to facilitate the sharing of regulatory information and the licensing, application, reporting and payment processes, by electronic or other means, for mortgage lenders and loan brokers, and other licensees required to be licensed under this chapter.

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(33) "Negative equity" means the difference between the value of an asset and the outstanding portion of the loan taken out to pay for the asset, when the latter exceeds the former amount.

(34) "Loan closing services" means providing title services, including title searches, title examinations, abstract preparation, insurability determinations, and the issuance of title commitments and title insurance policies, conducting loan closings, and preparation of loan closing documents when performed by or under the supervision of a licensed attorney, licensed title agency, of licensed title insurance company.

19-14-3. Application for license. [Effective December 31, 2008.] Application for <u>license. --</u> (a) The application for a license shall be in the form prescribed by the director and shall contain the name and address or addresses where the business of the applicant is located and if the applicant is a partnership, association, corporation or other form of business organization, the names and addresses of each member, director and principal officer thereof or any individual acting in the capacity of the manager of an office location. Such application shall also include a description of the activities of the applicant, in such detail and for such periods as the director may require, as well as such further information as the director may require. The director may require a background investigation of each applicant for a license by means of fingerprint checks pursuant to Rhode Island general laws sections 19-14-7 and 42-14-14, utilizing the federal bureau of investigation, or other agency as determined by the director for state and national criminal history record checks. If the applicant is a partnership, association, corporation or other form of business organization, the director may require a background investigation by means of fingerprint checks on each member, director or principal officer of such applicant or any individual acting in the capacity of the manager of an office location. The director will determine by rule those items of information appearing on a criminal records check that will constitute disqualifying information and therefore render the applicant ineligible for licensing under this chapter in accordance with the provisions of section 19-14-7. Receipt of criminal history record information by a private entity is prohibited. Each application for a license shall be accompanied by an investigation fee. The applicant at the time of making application shall pay to the director or the director's designee the sum of one half (1/2) of the annual license fee as a fee for investigating the application. If the application for license is approved, the applicant shall pay a fee equal to the annual license fee as provided in this chapter. The license shall be continuous and

- the license fee shall cover the period through December 31 of each year. Any The annual license fee for any application approved after October November 1 of any given year shall satisfy the annual license fee requirement through the end of the next succeeding calendar year ending December 31. pay one half (1/2) of the annual license fee for the period ending December 31 of that year as well as a full annual license fee for the succeeding calendar year ending December 31st. The director or the director's designee is authorized to participate in a multi-state licensing system for licensees. The director may establish requirements for participation by an applicant for a license or a person licensed under this chapter. Any such requirements that may be established by the director shall be published on the website of the department of business regulation. Upon implementation, participation by an applicant for a license α by a person licensed under the provisions of this chapter shall be mandatory. The applicant may be required to an additional fee for a license or other participation in such multi-state licensing system.
- 13 (b) [Reserved].

- (c) [Reserved].
 - (d) Any license issued under the provisions of former section 5-66-2 shall remain in full force and effect until its expiration and shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter.
 - (e) An applicant for issuance of a mortgage loan originator license shall file with the director or the director's designee evidence acceptable to the director or the director's designee that said applicant has complied with the provisions of sections 19-14.10-5, 19-14.10-7 and 19-14.10-8:
 - (1) Successfully completed, during the two (2) years immediately preceding the date of application, an entry level training course relative to state and federal statutes, rules and regulations applicable to loans, mortgages, real property, deeds and contracts consisting of a minimum of twenty four (24) hours with an approved nationally recognized training facility or other facility including in house programs, as determined by the director or the director's designee; or
 - (2) If the applicant has been employed as a mortgage loan originator for five (5) or more years as of January 1, 2009 in this state, the applicant must file with the director or the director's designee that applicant has completed a minimum of twelve (12) hours of education relative to state and federal statutes, rules and regulations applicable to loans, mortgages, real property, deeds and contracts during the two (2) years immediately preceding January 1, 2009, by an approved nationally recognized training facility or other facility including in house programs, as determined by the director or the director's designee; or
- 34 (3) If the applicant has been employed as a loan officer of a financial institution, credit

union, bank organized under the laws of another state or bank organized under the laws of the United States for between one and five (5) years immediately preceding applicant's employment as a mortgage loan originator, applicant shall file an application for a mortgage loan originator license on or before his or her date of employment as a mortgage loan originator and shall file evidence acceptable to the director or the director's designee that applicant has completed a minimum of twenty four (24) hours of education relative to state and federal statutes, rules and regulations applicable to loans, mortgages, real property, deeds and contracts within one hundred twenty (120) days of his or her employment as a mortgage loan originator by an approved nationally recognized training facility or other facility including in house programs, as determined by the director or the director's designee; or

(4) If the applicant has been employed as a loan officer of a financial institution, credit union, bank organized under the laws of another state or bank organized under the laws of the United States for five (5) years immediately preceding applicant's employment as a mortgage loan originator, applicant shall file an application for a mortgage loan originator license on or before his or her date of employment as a mortgage loan originator and shall file evidence acceptable to the director or the director's designee that applicant has completed a minimum of twelve (12) hours of education relative to state and federal statues, rules and regulations applicable to loans, mortgages, real property, deeds and contracts within twelve (12) months of his or her employment as a mortgage loan originator by an approved nationally recognized training facility or other facility including in house programs, as determined by the director or the director's designee; or

(5) The requirements that mortgage loan originators obtain licenses as set forth by section 19 14 2 shall be effective January 1, 2009 however, all mortgage loan originators shall register with the department by March 31, 2008 on a form to be prescribed by the director or the director's designee along with a registration fee of the same amount as provided for in section 19-14 4(8).

(f) The application for a lender, or loan broker license shall include an application for a license for each mortgage loan originator of the applicant.

19-14-7. Issuance or denial of license. -- (a) Upon the filing of a completed application, the payment of fees and the approval of the bond, the director or the director's designee shall commence an investigation of the applicant. The director or the director's designee shall issue and deliver approve the license applied for in accordance with the provisions of this chapter at the location specified in the application if he or she shall find:

(1) That the financial responsibility, experience, character, and general fitness of the

applicant, and of the applicant's members and of the applicant's officers, including the designated manager of record of a licensed location, if the applicant is a partnership, limited liability company or association, or of the officers including the designated manager of record of a licensed location, and directors and the principal owner or owners of the issued and outstanding capital stock, if the applicant is a corporation, are such as to command the confidence of the community and to warrant belief that the business will be operated honestly, fairly, and efficiently within the purposes of this title; and

- (2) That allowing the applicant to engage in business will promote the convenience and advantage of the community in which the business of the applicant is to be conducted.
- (b) A license provided pursuant to this title shall remain in full force and effect until it is surrendered by the licensee or revoked or suspended as provided by law.
- (c) If the director or the director's designee rejects an application for a license, he or she shall notify the applicant, by certified mail, of the denial, the reason(s) supporting the denial and shall afford the applicant the opportunity for a hearing within a reasonable time period to show cause why the license should not be denied. When an application for a license is denied by the director or the director's designee or withdrawn by the applicant, the director or the director's designee shall return to the applicant the bond, but shall retain the investigation fee to cover the costs of investigating the application. The director or the director's designee shall approve or deny every application for license under this section within sixty (60) days from the date the application is deemed by the director or the director's designee to be completed. Upon written request of the applicant, the director or the director's designee shall advise the applicant whether the applicant's application for any such license is complete and if not, the reason why such application is not complete.
- (d) Any applicant or licensee aggrieved by the action of the director or the director's designee in denying a completed application for a license shall have the right to appeal the action, order, or decision pursuant to chapter 35 of title 42.
- 19-14-9. Contents of license -- Posting. -- The license or branch certificate shall contain any information that the director or the director's designee shall require, including the type of activity authorized. The With the exception of licensed mortgage loan originators, the license or branch certificate shall be kept conspicuously posted in the place of business of the licensee. The mortgage loan originator license must be carried by each mortgage loan originator and presented, upon request to each applicant or potential applicant with whom the mortgage loan originator transacts business in an in-person meeting. When dealing with an applicant or potential applicant for a mortgage loan or when dealing with any person providing settlement services (as defined in

the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, as amended, or the regulations promulgated thereunder from time to time), other than in an in-person meeting, the a mortgage loan originator shall disclose the mortgage loan originator's nationwide mortgage licensing system unique identification number license number, upon request to the applicant or potential applicant and the fact that the mortgage loan originator is licensed by this state. Any licensee who shall lose, misplace or mutilate the license or branch certificate shall pay a replacement fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) to the director for the use of the state.

19-14-22. Reporting requirements. -- (a) Each licensee shall annually on or before March 31 file a report with the director or the director's designee giving any relevant information that the director or the director's designee may reasonably require concerning the business and operations during the preceding calendar year of each licensed place of business conducted by the licensee within the state. The report shall be made under oath and shall be in a form prescribed by the director or the director's designee. At the time of filing each report, the sum of fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) per license and fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) per branch certificate shall be paid by the licensee to the director for the use of the state. Any licensee who shall delay transmission of any report required by the provisions of this title beyond the limit, unless additional time is granted, in writing, for good cause, by the director or the director's designee, shall pay a penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25) for each day of the delay. In lieu of a report by any licensed mortgage loan originator, the director or the director's designee may accept a report by the licensed lender or licensed loan broker who employed the licensed mortgage loan originator for the activities of the licensed mortgage loan originator while employed by such lender or loan broker during the applicable calendar year.

(b) Any licensee shall, within twenty-four (24) hours after actual knowledge, notify the director or the director's designee, in writing, of the occurrence of any of the following events: the institution of bankruptcy, receivership, reorganization or insolvency proceedings regarding a licensee, the institution of any adverse government action against a licensee, or any felony indictment or conviction of any licensee or any officers, directors, owners, employees, members or partners thereof, as the case may be.

(c) Each mortgage loan originator licensee shall, on or before March 31, 2010 and every March 31st thereafter, file with the director or the director's designee evidence acceptable to the director or the director's designee that said loan originator <u>licensee has filed with the nationwide</u> mortgage licensing system and registry a report of condition, which shall be in such form and shall contain such information as the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry may require along with evidence that the licensee <u>has successfully completed</u>, during the twelve (12)

months immediately preceding March 31, satisfied the requirements of section 19-14.10-10 with respect to continuing education a minimum of eight (8) hours of continuing education relative to state and federal statutes, rules and regulations applicable to loans, mortgages, real property, deeds and contracts provided by an approved nationally recognized training facility or other facility including in house programs, as determined by the director or the director's designee

(d) Both the mortgage loan originator and <u>his or her</u> the licensee <u>licensed employer</u> shall promptly notify the director or the director's designee, in writing, within fifteen (15) business days of the termination of employment or services of a mortgage loan originator.

19-14-23. Examinations and investigations. -- (a) For the purpose of discovering violations of this title or securing information lawfully required, the director or the director's designee(s) may at any time investigate the loans and business and examine the books, accounts, records and files used therein, of every licensee and person who shall be engaged in any activity that requires a license under this title, the business, whether the person shall act or claim to act as principal or agent, or under or without the authority of this title. For that purpose the director or the director's designee(s) shall have free access to the offices and places of business, books, accounts, paper, records, files, and safes, of all such persons. The director or the director's designee(s) shall have authority to require the attendance of and to examine under oath any person whose testimony may be required relative to the loans or the business or to the subject matter of any examination, investigation, or hearing.

(b) The director or the director's designee shall make an examination of the affairs, business, office, and records of each licensee and branch location at least once every eighteen (18) months. The director or the director's designee may accept in lieu of an examination of the business of a licensed mortgage loan originator, the examination by the director or the director's designee of the licensed lender(s) or licensed loan broker who employ the licensed mortgage loan originator and/or who employed the licensed mortgage loan originator during the period under examination. The total cost of an examination made pursuant to this section shall be paid by the licensee or person being examined, and shall include the following expenses:

(1) One hundred fifty percent (150%) of the total salaries and benefits plus one hundred percent (100%) for the travel and transportation expenses for the examining personnel engaged in the examinations. The cost of an examination of a mortgage loan originator licensee shall be limited to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total salary and benefits for the personnel engaged in an examination specific to a mortgage loan originator. The fees shall be paid to the director to and for the use of the state. The examination fees shall be in addition to any taxes and fees otherwise payable to the state;

(2) All reasonable technology costs related to the examination process. Technology costs shall include the actual cost of software and hardware utilized in the examination process and the cost of training examination personnel in the proper use of the software or hardware; and

- (3) All necessary and reasonable education and training costs incurred by the state to maintain the proficiency and competence of the examination personnel. All such costs shall be incurred in accordance with appropriate state of Rhode Island regulations, guidelines and procedures.
- (c) All expenses incurred pursuant to subsections (b)(2) and (b)(3) of this section shall be allocated equally to each licensee, other than licensed mortgage loan originators, no more frequently than annually and shall not exceed an annual average assessment of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per company for any given three (3) calendar year period. All revenues collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited as general revenues. That assessment shall be in addition to any taxes and fees otherwise payable to the state.
- (d) The provisions of section 19-4-3 shall apply to records of examinations or investigations of licensees; however, the director or the director's designee is authorized to make public the number of valid consumer complaints as determined by the director or the director's designee filed against the licensee for a twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the request for the information.
- (e) If the director or his or her designee has reason to believe that any person required to be licensed under this chapter is conducting a business without having first obtained a license under this chapter, or who after the denial, suspension, or revocation of a license is conducting that business, the director or his or her designee may issue an order to that person commanding him or her to cease and desist from conducting that business. The order shall provide an opportunity to request a hearing to be held not sooner than three (3) days after issuance of that order to show cause why the order should not become final. Any order issued pursuant to this section shall become final if no request for a hearing is received by the director or his or her designee within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the order. The order may be served on any person by mailing a copy of the order, certified mail, return receipt requested, and first class mail to that person at any address at which that person has done business or at which that person lives. Any hearing held pursuant to this section shall be governed in accordance with chapter 35 of title 42. If that person fails to comply with an order of the director or his or her designee after being afforded an opportunity for a hearing, the superior court for Providence County has jurisdiction upon complaint of the department to restrain and enjoin that person from violating this chapter.
 - (f) The director may impose an administrative assessment, as well as the penalties

provided for under section 19-14-26, against any person named in an order issued under subsection (e) or, in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to section 19-14-30, against any person who violates or participates in the violation of any of the applicable provisions of this title, or any regulation promulgated pursuant to any provisions of this title. The amount of the administrative assessment may not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each violation of this chapter or each act or omission that constitutes a basis for issuing the order. Any person aggrieved by an administrative assessment shall have the opportunity to request a hearing to be held in accordance with chapter 35 of title 42 within thirty (30) days of the imposition of such administrative assessment.

- SECTION 2. Section 19-14.1-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 19-14.1 entitled

 "Lenders and Loan Brokers" is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 12 <u>19-14.1-10. Special exemptions. -</u> (a) The licensing provisions of chapter 14 of this title 13 shall not apply to:
 - (1) Nonprofit charitable, educational, or religious corporations or associations;
- (2) Any person who makes less than six (6) loans in this state in any consecutive twelve
 (12) month period; there is no similar exemption from licensing for loan brokers for brokering
 loans or acting as a loan broker;
 - (3) Person(s) Any person acting as an agent for a licensee for the purpose of conducting closings at a location other than that stipulated in the license;
 - (4) Regulated institutions and banks or credit unions organized under the laws of the United States, or subject to written notice with a designated Rhode Island agent for service of process in the form prescribed by the director or the director's designee, of any other state within the United States if the laws of the other state in which such bank or credit union is organized authorizes under conditions not substantially more restrictive than those imposed by the laws of this state, as determined by the director or the director's designee, a financial institution or credit union to engage in the business of originating or brokering loans in the other state; no bank or credit union duly organized under the laws of any other state within the United States may receive deposits, pay checks or lend money from any location within this state unless such bank or credit union has received approval from the director or the director's designee for the establishment of an interstate branch office pursuant to chapter 7 of title 19 of the general laws; or
 - (5) Any natural person employee who is employed by a licensee when acting on the licensee's behalf; provided that this exemption shall not apply to a mortgage loan originator required to be licensed under section 19-14-2 or section 19-14.10-4.
- 34 (6) A loan originator employed by an operating subsidiary of a financial institution or

1	banking institution organized under the laws of this state or any state within the United States
2	provided, however, that any such operating subsidiary shall provide an educational program o
3	course that is relevant to the products and services offered by its employees who solicit loans or
4	behalf of such operating subsidiary.
5	(6) A licensed attorney when performing loan closing services for a licensee or for an
6	entity identified in subdivision (4) above.
7	(b) The provisions of this chapter and chapter 14 of this title shall not apply to:
8	(1) Loans to corporations, joint ventures, partnerships, limited liability companies or
9	other business entities;
10	(2) Loans over twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in amount to individuals for
11	business or commercial, as opposed to personal, family or household purposes;
12	(3) Loans principally secured by accounts receivable and/or business inventory;
13	(4) Loans made by a life insurance company wholly secured by the cash surrender value
14	of a life insurance policy;
15	(5) Education-purpose loans made by the Rhode Island health and educational building
16	corporation as vested in chapter 38.1 of title 45 of the Rhode Island student loan authority as
17	vested in chapter 62 of title 16;
18	(6) The acquisition of retail or loan installment contracts by an entity whose sole
19	business in this state is acquiring them from federal banks receivers or liquidators;
20	(7) Notes evidencing the indebtedness of a retail buyer to a retail seller of goods,
21	services or insurance for a part or all of the purchase price; or
22	(8) Any state or federal agency which makes, brokers, or funds loans or acts as a lende
23	or a loan broker. This exemption includes exclusive agents or exclusive contractors of the agency
24	specifically designated by the agency to perform those functions on behalf of the agency and
25	which has notified the director, in writing, of the exclusive agency or contract.
26	(9) Notes evidencing the indebtedness of a retail buyer to a retail motor vehicle dealer
27	that include as part of the amount financed, disclosed in accordance with 12 C.F.R. 226.18 as
28	amended, an amount representing negative equity related to the motor vehicle being traded in as
29	part of the purchase price of the motor vehicle being purchased.
30	(c) No license to make or fund loans, or to act as a lender or small loan lender shall be
31	required of any person who engages in deferred deposit transactions (commonly known as "pay
32	day advance") while holding a valid license to cash checks pursuant to chapter 14 of this title.
33	SECTION 3. Title 19 of the General Laws entitled "FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS" is

hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

2	AN ACT ADOPTING THE FEDERAL SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT FOR
3	MORTGAGE LICENSING ACT OF 2009
4	19-14.10-1. Short title This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Secure
5	and Fair Enforcement Mortgage Licensing Act of 2009"
6	19-14.10-2. Purpose The activities of mortgage loan originators and the origination or
7	offering of financing for residential real property have a direct, valuable and immediate impact
8	upon Rhode Island's consumers, Rhode Island's economy, the neighborhoods and communities
9	of Rhode Island, and the housing and real estate industry. The general assembly finds that
10	accessibility to mortgage credit is vital to the state's citizens. The general assembly also finds
11	that it is essential for the protection of the citizens of Rhode Island and the stability of Rhode
12	Island's economy that reasonable standards for licensing and regulation of the business practices
13	of mortgage loan originators be imposed. The general assembly further finds that the obligations
14	of mortgage loan originators to consumers in connection with originating or making residential
15	mortgage loans are such as to warrant the regulation of the mortgage lending process. The
16	purpose of this chapter is to protect consumers seeking mortgage loans and to ensure that the
17	mortgage lending industry is operating without unfair, deceptive, and fraudulent practices on the
18	part of mortgage loan originators. Therefore the general assembly establishes within this chapter:
19	(1) System of supervision and enforcementAn effective system of supervision and
20	enforcement of the mortgage lending industry, including:
21	(i) The authority to issue licenses to conduct business under this chapter, including the
22	authority to write rules or regulations or adopt procedures necessary to the licensing of persons
23	covered under this chapter.
24	(ii) The authority to deny, suspend, condition or revoke licenses issued under this chapter.
25	(iii) The authority to examine, investigate and conduct enforcement actions as necessary
26	to carry out the intended purposes of this chapter, including the authority to subpoena witnesses
27	and documents, enter orders, including cease and desist orders, order restitution and monetary
28	penalties and order the removal and ban of individuals from office or employment.
29	(2) Broad administrative authorityThat the director of the department of business
30	regulation ("director") or the director's designee shall have the broad administrative authority to
31	administer, interpret and enforce this chapter, and promulgate rules or regulations implementing
32	this chapter, in order to carry out the intentions of the general assembly.
33	19-14.10-3. Definitions For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall
34	apply:

<u>CHAPTER 14.10</u>

1	(1) Depository institution has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit
2	Insurance Act, and includes any credit union.
3	(2) "Federal banking agencies" means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve
4	System, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, the
5	National Credit Union Administration, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.
6	(3) "Immediate family member" means a spouse, child, sibling, parent, grandparent, or
7	grandchild. This includes stepparents, stepchildren, stepsiblings, and adoptive relationships.
8	(4) "Individual" means a natural person.
9	(5)(i) "Loan processor or underwriter" means an individual who performs clerical or
10	support duties as an employee at the direction of and subject to the supervision and instruction of
11	a person licensed as a lender or as a loan broker, or exempt from licensing under chapters 19-14
12	<u>or 19-14.1.</u>
13	(ii) For purposes of subsection (5)(i), "clerical or support duties" may include
14	subsequent to the receipt of an application:
15	(A) The receipt, collection, distribution, and analysis of information common for the
16	processing or underwriting of a residential mortgage loan; and
17	(B) Communicating with a consumer to obtain the information necessary for the
18	processing or underwriting of a loan, to the extent that such communication does not include
19	offering or negotiating loan rates or terms, or counseling consumers about residential mortgage
20	loan rates or terms.
21	(iii) Representatives to the public An individual engaging solely in loan processor or
22	underwriter activities, shall not represent to the public, through advertising or other means of
23	communicating or providing information including the use of business cards, stationery
24	brochures, signs, rate lists, or other promotional items, that such individual can or will perform
25	any of the activities of a mortgage loan originator.
26	(6)(i) "Mortgage loan originator" means:
27	(A) An individual who, for compensation or gain or in the expectation of compensation
28	or gain:
29	(I) Takes a residential mortgage loan application; or
30	(II) Offers or negotiates terms of a residential mortgage loan;
31	(B) Does not include an individual engaged solely as a loan processor or underwriter
32	except as otherwise provided in subsection 19-14.10-(c);
33	(C) Does not include a person or entity that only performs real estate brokerage activities
34	and is licensed or registered in accordance with Rhode Island law, unless the person or entity is

2	such lender, mortgage broker, or other mortgage loan originator;
3	(D) Does not include a person or entity solely involved in extensions of credit relating to
4	timeshare plans, as that term is defined in section 101(53D) of title 11, United States Code, as
5	amended; and
6	(E) Does not include a person (or its employees) engaged in servicing mortgage loans.
7	For purposes of this exclusion, "servicing mortgage loans" means, on behalf of the note holder,
8	collecting and receiving payments, including payments of principal, interest, escrow amounts,
9	and other sums due, on obligations due and owing to the note holder pursuant to a residential
10	mortgage loan, and, when the borrower is in default, or in reasonably foreseeable likelihood of
11	default, working with the borrower on behalf of the note holder and pursuant to the contract
12	between the person servicing mortgage loans and the note holder, to modify but not refinance,
13	either temporarily or permanently, the obligations, or otherwise finalizing collection of the
14	obligation through the foreclosure process.
15	(ii) "Real estate brokerage activity" means any activity that involves offering or
16	providing real estate brokerage services to the public, including:
17	(A) Acting as a real estate agent or real estate broker for a buyer, seller, lessor, or lessee
18	of real property;
19	(B) Bringing together parties interested in the sale, purchase, lease, rental, or exchange of
20	real property;
21	(C) Negotiating, on behalf of any party, any portion of a contract relating to the sale,
22	purchase, lease, rental, or exchange of real property (other than in connection with providing
23	financing with respect to any such transaction);
24	(D) Engaging in any activity for which a person engaged in the activity is required to be
25	registered or licensed as a real estate agent or real estate broker under any applicable law; and
26	(E) Offering to engage in any activity, or act in any capacity, described in subparagraphs
27	(A), (B), (C), or (D) of this section.
28	(7) "Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry" means a mortgage licensing
29	system developed and maintained by the conference of state bank supervisors and the American
30	association of residential mortgage regulators for the licensing and registration of licensed
31	mortgage loan originators.
32	(8) "Nontraditional mortgage product" means any mortgage product other than a thirty
33	(30) year fixed rate mortgage.
2/1	(0) "Parson" mans a natural parson corporation company limited liability company

compensated by a lender, a mortgage broker, or other mortgage loan originator or by any agent of

2	(10) "Registered mortgage loan originator" means any individual who:
3	(i) Meets the definition of mortgage loan originator and is an employee of:
4	(A) A depository institution;
5	(B) A subsidiary that is:
6	(I) Owned and controlled by a depository institution; and
7	(II) Regulated by a Federal banking agency; or
8	(C) An institution regulated by the farm credit administration; and
9	(D) Is registered with, and maintains a unique identifier through, the nationwide
10	mortgage licensing system and registry.
11	(11) "Residential mortgage loan" means any loan primarily for personal, family, or
12	household use that is secured by a mortgage, deed of trust, or other equivalent consensual security
13	interest on a dwelling (as defined in section 103(v) of the Truth in Lending Act) or residential real
14	estate upon which is constructed or intended to be constructed a dwelling (as so defined).
15	(12) "Residential real estate" means any real property located in Rhode Island, upon
16	which is constructed or intended to be constructed a dwelling.
17	(13) "Unique identifier" means a number or other identifier assigned by protocols
18	established by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.
19	19-14.10-4. License and registration required (a) An individual, unless specifically
20	exempted from this chapter under subsection (b) of this section, shall not engage in the business
21	of a mortgage loan originator with respect to any dwelling located in this state without first
22	obtaining and maintaining annually a license under this chapter. Each licensed mortgage loan
23	originator must register with and maintain a valid unique identifier issued by the nationwide
24	mortgage licensing system and registry.
25	(b) The following are exempt from this chapter:
26	(1) Registered mortgage loan originators, when acting for an entity described in
27	subparagraphs 19-14.10-3(10) (A), (B), or (C) are exempt from this chapter.
28	(2) Any individual who offers or negotiates terms of a residential mortgage loan with or
29	on behalf of an immediate family member of the individual.
30	(3) Any individual who offers or negotiates terms of a residential mortgage loan secured
31	by a dwelling that served as the individual's residence.
32	(4) A licensed attorney who negotiates the terms of a residential mortgage loan on behalf
33	of a client as an ancillary matter to the attorney's representation of the client, unless the attorney
34	is compensated by a lender, a mortgage broker, or other mortgage loan originator or by any agent

partnership, association, or any other entity however organized.

1	of such lender, mortgage broker, or other mortgage loan originator.
2	(5) A licensed attorney when performing loan closing services for a licensed lender,
3	licensed loan broker, or for an entity exempt from licensing under subdivision 19-14.1-10(a)(4);
4	(c) A loan processor or underwriter who is an independent contractor may not engage in
5	the activities of a loan processor or underwriter unless such independent contractor loan processor
6	or underwriter obtains and maintains a license under chapters 19-14 or 19-14.1. Each
7	independent contractor loan processor or underwriter licensed as a mortgage loan originator must
8	have and maintain a valid unique identifier issued by the nationwide mortgage licensing system
9	and registry.
10	(d) For the purposes of implementing an orderly and efficient licensing process the
11	director or the director's designee may establish licensing rules or regulations and interim
12	procedures for licensing and acceptance of applications. For previously registered or licensed
13	individuals the director or the director's designee may establish expedited review and licensing
14	procedures as follows:
15	(1) A mortgage loan originator applicant whose employer at the time of application for a
16	mortgage loan originator license is an entity described in subparagraphs 19-14.10-3(10) (A), (B),
17	or (C) and who has been assigned a unique identifier through the nationwide mortgage licensing
18	system and registry and who has completed and filed with the director or the director's designee
19	all information, documents and requirements for licensure pursuant to this chapter shall be
20	permitted to continue to act as a mortgage loan originator for the period prior to action being
21	taken on his or her application by the director or the director's designee;
22	(2) A mortgage loan originator applicant who has been assigned a unique identifier
23	through the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry and who has completed and filed
24	with the director or the director's designee all information, documents and requirements for
25	licensure pursuant to this chapter and whose employer at the time of application for a mortgage
26	loan originator license is a lender or loan broker licensed under chapter 19-14 and 19-14.1, shall
27	be permitted to continue to act as a mortgage loan originator for the period prior to action being
28	taken on his or her application by the director or director's designee if the applicant and a senior
29	officer or principal of such lender or loan broker files written attestation to the director or the
30	director's designee that:
31	(i) The applicant is currently or has within the six (6) month period prior to the date of the
32	application been acting as a registered mortgage loan originator in this state or as a state-licensed
33	mortgage loan originator in another state, in either case under the provisions of Section 1507 of
34	the SAFE Act;

1	(ii) The applicant has never had a mortgage loan license or registration denied, revoked,
2	or suspended in any governmental jurisdiction; and
3	(iii) the applicant has not been convicted of a felony that would otherwise authorize the
4	director or the director's designee to deny the applicant a license.
5	(3) Any provisional authority to act as a mortgage loan originator issued pursuant to this
6	subsection (d) shall expire on the earlier of: (i) The date on which the director or the director's
7	designee issues or denies the application for the license; or (ii) One hundred twenty (120) days
8	from the date of application for the license.
9	(4) The director or the director's designee may deny or suspend the rights of a lender or
10	loan broker licensed under chapter 19-14 or 19-14.1 to employ a mortgage loan originator under
11	this subsection (d) if the director or the director's designee finds that such lender or loan broker, a
12	senior official or principal thereof, or the applicant failed to exercise due diligence and good faith
13	when submitting the attestations required in subdivision (d)(1) or (d)(2) above.
14	19-14.10-5. State license and registration application and issuance. – (a) Applicants
15	for a license shall apply in a form as prescribed by the director or the director's designee. Each
16	such form shall contain content as set forth by rule, regulation, instruction or procedure of the
17	director or the director's designee and may be changed or updated as necessary by the director or
18	the director's designee in order to carry out the purposes of this chapter.
19	(b) In order to fulfill the purposes of this chapter, the director or the director's designee is
20	authorized to establish relationships or contracts with the nationwide mortgage licensing system
21	and registry or other entities designated by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry
22	to collect and maintain records and process transaction fees or other fees related to licensees or
23	other persons subject to this chapter.
24	(c) In connection with an application for licensing as a mortgage loan originator, the
25	applicant shall, at a minimum, furnish to the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry
26	information concerning the applicant's identity, including:
27	(1) Fingerprints for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and any
28	governmental agency or entity authorized to receive such information for a state, national and
29	international criminal history background check; and
30	(2) Personal history and experience in a form prescribed by the nationwide mortgage
31	licensing system and registry, including the submission of authorization for the nationwide
32	mortgage licensing system and registry and the director to obtain:
33	(i) An independent credit report obtained from a consumer reporting agency described in
34	section 603(p) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act; and

1	(ii) Information related to any administrative, civil or criminal findings by any
2	governmental jurisdiction.
3	(d) For the purposes of this section and in order to reduce the points of contact which the
4	Federal Bureau of Investigation may have to maintain for purposes of this section the director or
5	the director's designee may use the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry as a
6	channeling agent for requesting information from and distributing information to the U.S.
7	Department of Justice or any governmental agency.
8	(e) For the purposes of this section and in order to reduce the points of contact which the
9	director or the director's designee may have to maintain for purposes of this section the director
10	or the director's designee may use the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry as a
11	channeling agent for requesting and distributing information to and from any source so directed
12	by the director or the director's designee.
13	19-14.10-6. Issuance of license The director or the director's designee shall not
14	approve a mortgage loan originator license unless the director or the director's designee makes at
15	a minimum the following findings:
16	(1) The applicant has never had a mortgage loan originator license revoked in any
17	governmental jurisdiction, except that a subsequent formal vacation of such revocation shall not
18	be deemed a revocation.
19	(2) The applicant has not been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, a felony
20	in a domestic, foreign, or military court:
21	(i) During the seven (7) year period preceding the date of the application for licensing
22	and registration; or
23	(ii) At any time preceding such date of application, if such felony involved an act of
24	fraud, dishonesty, or a breach of trust, or money laundering.
25	(iii) Pardon of a conviction shall not be a conviction for purposes of this subsection.
26	(3) The applicant has demonstrated financial responsibility, character, and general fitness
27	such as to command the confidence of the community and to warrant a determination that the
28	mortgage loan originator will operate honestly, fairly, and efficiently within the purposes of this
29	<u>chapter.</u>
30	(i) For purposes of this subsection a person has shown that he or she is not financially
31	responsible when he or she has shown a disregard in the management of his or her own financial
32	condition. A determination that an individual has not shown financial responsibility may include,
33	but not be limited to:
34	(i) Current outstanding judgments, except judgments solely as a result of medical

1	expenses;
2	(ii) Current outstanding tax liens or other government liens and filings;
3	(iii) Foreclosures within the past three years;
4	(iv) A pattern of seriously delinquent accounts within the past three (3) years.
5	(d) The applicant has completed the pre-licensing education requirement described in
6	section 19-14.10-7.
7	(e) The applicant has passed a written test that meets the test requirement described in
8	section 19-14.10-8.
9	(f) The applicant has met the net worth or surety bond requirements required pursuant to
10	<u>19-14.10-14.</u>
11	19-14.10-7. Pre-licensing and re-licensing education of loan originators (a) In
12	order to meet the pre-licensing education requirement referred to in this chapter a person shall
13	complete at least twenty (20) hours of education approved in accordance with subsection (b) of
14	this section, which shall include at least:
15	(1) Three (3) hours of Federal law and regulations;
16	(2) Three (3) hours of ethics, which shall include instruction on fraud, consumer
17	protection, and fair lending issues;
18	(3) Two (2) hours of training related to lending standards for the nontraditional mortgage
19	product marketplace; and
20	(4) Three (3) hours of Rhode Island law and regulations.
21	(b) For purposes of subsection (a) of this section, pre-licensing education courses shall be
22	reviewed, and approved by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry based upon
23	reasonable standards. Review and approval of a pre-licensing education course shall include
24	review and approval of the course provider.
25	(c) Nothing in this section shall preclude any pre-licensing education course, as approved
26	by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry that is provided by the employer of the
27	applicant or an entity which is affiliated with the applicant by an agency contract, or any
28	subsidiary or affiliate of such employer or entity.
29	(d) Pre-licensing education may be offered either in a classroom, online or by any other
30	means approved by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.
31	(e) The pre-licensing education requirements approved by the nationwide mortgage
32	licensing system and registry for any state shall be accepted as credit towards completion of pre-
33	licensing education requirements in Rhode Island.
34	(f) A person previously licensed under this chapter subsequent to the effective date of this

2	education requirements for the year in which the license was last held.
3	19-14.10-8. Testing of loan originators (a) In order to meet the written test
4	requirement referred to in this chapter, an individual shall pass, in accordance with the standards
5	established under this subsection, a qualified written test developed by the nationwide mortgage
6	licensing system and registry and administered by a test provider approved by the nationwide
7	mortgage licensing system and registry based upon reasonable standards.
8	(b) A written test shall not be treated as a qualified written test for purposes of this
9	section unless the test adequately measures the applicant's knowledge and comprehension in
10	appropriate subject areas, including:
11	(1) Ethics;
12	(2) Federal law and regulation pertaining to mortgage origination;
13	(3) State law and regulation pertaining to mortgage origination;
14	(4) Federal and State law and regulation, including instruction on fraud, consumer
15	protection, the nontraditional mortgage marketplace, and fair lending issues.
16	(c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a test provider approved by the nationwide
17	mortgage licensing system and registry from providing a test at the location of the employer of
18	the applicant or the location of any subsidiary or affiliate of the employer of the applicant, or the
19	location of any entity with which the applicant holds an exclusive arrangement to conduct the
20	business of a mortgage loan originator.
21	(d)(1) An individual shall not be considered to have passed a qualified written test unless
22	the individual achieves a test score of not less than seventy-five percent (75%) correct answers to
23	questions.
24	(2) An individual may retake a test three (3) consecutive times with each consecutive
25	taking occurring at least thirty (30) days after the preceding test.
26	(3) After failing three (3) consecutive tests, an individual shall wait at least six (6) months
27	before taking the test again.
28	(4) A licensed mortgage loan originator who fails to maintain a valid license for a period
29	of five (5) years or longer shall retake the test, not taking into account any time during which
30	such individual is a registered mortgage loan originator.
31	19-14.10-9. Standards for license renewal (a) The minimum standards for license
32	renewal for mortgage loan originators shall include the following:
33	(1) The mortgage loan originator continues to meet the minimum standards for license
34	issuance under subsection 19-14.10-6.

chapter applying to be licensed again must prove that they have completed all of the continuing

1	(2) The mortgage loan originator has satisfied the annual continuing education
2	requirements described in section 19-14.10-10.
3	(3) The mortgage loan originator has paid all required fees for renewal of the license.
4	(b) The license of a mortgage loan originator failing to satisfy the minimum standards for
5	license renewal shall expire. The director or the director's designee may adopt procedures for the
6	reinstatement of expired licenses consistent with the standards established by the Nationwide
7	Mortgage Licensing System and Registry.
8	19-14.10-10. Continuing education for mortgage loan originators (a) In order to
9	meet the annual continuing education requirements referred to in section 19-14.10-9, a licensed
10	mortgage loan originator shall complete at least (8) hours of education approved in accordance
11	with subsection (2) of this section, which shall include at least:
12	(1) Three (3) hours of Federal law and regulations;
13	(2) Two (2) hours of ethics, which shall include instruction on fraud, consumer
14	protection, and fair lending issues;
15	(3) Two (2) hours of training related to lending standards for the nontraditional mortgage
16	product marketplace; and
17	(4) One hour of Rhode Island law and regulations.
18	(b) For purposes of this section, continuing education courses shall be reviewed, and
19	approved by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry based upon reasonable
20	standards. Review and approval of a continuing education course shall include review and
21	approval of the course provider.
22	(c) Nothing in this section shall preclude any education course, as approved by the
23	nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry, that is provided by the employer of the
24	mortgage loan originator or an entity which is affiliated with the mortgage loan originator by an
25	agency contract, or any subsidiary or affiliate of such employer or entity.
26	(d) Continuing education may be offered either in a classroom, online or by any other
27	means approved by the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry.
28	(e) A licensed mortgage loan originator:
29	(1) Except for subsection 19-14.10-9 (b) and subsection (i) of this section, may only
30	receive credit for a continuing education course in the year in which the course is taken; and
31	(2) May not take the same approved course in the same or successive years to meet the
32	annual requirements for continuing education.
33	(f) A licensed mortgage loan originator who is an approved instructor of an approved
34	continuing education course may receive credit for the licensed mortgage loan originator's own

1	annual continuing education requirement at the rate of two (2) hours credit for every one hour
2	taught.
3	(g) A person having successfully completed the education requirements approved by the
4	nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry in subdivision (a)(1), (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this
5	section for any state shall be accepted as credit towards completion of continuing education
6	requirements in Rhode Island. Nothing herein shall relieve an applicant of the obligation to
7	satisfy educational requirements specifically related to Rhode Island law and regulations.
8	(h) A licensed mortgage loan originator who subsequently becomes unlicensed must
9	complete the continuing education requirements for the last year in which the license was held
10	prior to issuance of a new or renewed license.
11	(i) A person meeting the requirements of subdivision 19-14.10-9 (a)(1) and (a)(3) may
12	make up any deficiency in continuing education as established by rule or regulation of the
13	director or the director's designee.
14	19-14.10-11. Authority to require license. – In addition to any other duties imposed
15	upon the director or the director's designee by law, the director or the director's designee shall
16	require mortgage loan originators to be licensed and registered through the nationwide mortgage
17	licensing system and registry. In order to carry out this requirement the director or the director's
18	designee is authorized to participate in the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.
19	For this purpose, the director or the director's designee may establish by rule or regulation
20	requirements as necessary, including but not limited to:
21	(1) Background checks for:
22	(i) Criminal history through fingerprint or other databases;
23	(ii) Civil or administrative records;
24	(iii) Credit history; or
25	(2) Any other information as deemed necessary by the nationwide mortgage licensing
26	system and registry.
27	(3) The payment of fees to apply for or renew licenses through the nationwide mortgage
28	licensing system and registry;
29	(4) The setting or resetting as necessary of renewal or reporting dates; and
30	(5) Requirements for amending or surrendering a license or any other such activities as
31	the director or the director's designee deems necessary for participation in the nationwide
32	mortgage licensing system and registry.
33	19-14.10-12. Nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry information
34	challenge process The director or the director's designee shall establish a process whereby

1	mortgage loan originators may challenge information entered into the nationwide mortgage
2	licensing system and registry by the director or the director's designee.
3	19-14.10-13. Enforcement authorities, violations and penalties (a) In order to
4	ensure the effective supervision and enforcement of this chapter the director or the director's
5	designee may, pursuant to chapter 42-35:
6	(1) Deny, suspend, revoke, condition or decline to renew a license for a violation of this
7	chapter, rules or regulations issued under this chapter or order or directive entered under this
8	<u>chapter.</u>
9	(2) Deny, suspend, revoke, condition or decline to renew a license if an applicant or
10	licensee fails at any time to meet the requirements of section 19-14.10-6 or 19-14.10-9, or
11	withholds information or makes a material misstatement in an application for a license or renewal
12	of a license.
13	(3) Order restitution against persons subject to this chapter for violations of this chapter.
14	(4) Impose fines on persons subject to this chapter pursuant to subsections (b), (c) and (d)
15	of this section.
16	(5) Issue orders or directives under this chapter as follows:
17	(i) Order or direct persons subject to this chapter to cease and desist from conducting
18	business, including immediate temporary orders to cease and desist.
19	(ii) Order or direct persons subject to this chapter to cease any harmful activities or
20	violations of this chapter, including immediate temporary orders to cease and desist.
21	(iii) Enter immediate temporary orders to cease business under a license or interim
22	license issued pursuant to the authority granted under this chapter if the director or the director's
23	designee determines that such license was erroneously granted or the licensee is currently in
24	violation of this chapter;
25	(iv) Order or direct such other affirmative action as the director or the director's designee
26	deems necessary.
27	(2) The director or the director's designee may impose a civil penalty on a mortgage loan
28	originator and any lender or loan broker licensed under chapter 19-14 or 19-14.1 which employs
29	such mortgage loan originator, if the director or the director's designee finds, on the record after
30	notice and opportunity for hearing, that such mortgage loan originator has violated or failed to
31	comply with any requirement of this chapter or any regulation prescribed by the director or the
32	director's designee under this chapter or order issued under authority of this chapter. In addition,
33	the director or the director's designee may impose a civil penalty on a lender or loan broker
3/1	licensed under chapter 10.14 or 10.14.1 which ampleys any mortgage loan originator licensed

2	opportunity for hearing, that such lender or loan broker has violated or failed to comply with any
3	requirement of this chapter or any such regulation or order.
4	(3) The maximum amount of penalty for each act or omission described in subsection (b)
5	of this section shall be twenty-five thousand five hundred dollars (\$25,000).
6	(4) Each violation or failure to comply with any directive or order of the director or the
7	director's designee is a separate and distinct violation or failure.
8	19-14.10-14. Surety bond required (a) Each mortgage loan originator shall be
9	covered by a surety bond in accordance with this section. In the event that the mortgage loan
10	originator is an employee of a lender or loan broker licensed under chapter 19-14, the surety bond
11	of such lender or loan broker as required in accordance with the provisions of such chapter and
12	adjusted by the amounts required by this section can be used in lieu of the mortgage loan
13	originator's surety bond requirement.
14	(1) The surety bond shall provide coverage for each mortgage loan originator in an
15	amount as prescribed in subsection (b) of this section.
16	(2) The surety bond shall be in a form as prescribed by the director or the director's
17	designee.
18	(3) The director or the director's designee may promulgate rules or regulations with
19	respect to the requirements for such surety bonds as are necessary to accomplish the purposes of
20	this chapter.
21	(b) The penal sum of the surety bond shall be maintained in an amount that reflects the
22	dollar amount of loans originated as determined by the director or the director's designee by
23	regulation adopted within one hundred twenty (120) days of the effective date of this section.
24	(c) When an action is commenced on a licensee's bond the director or the director's
25	designee may require the filing of a new bond.
26	(d) Immediately upon recovery upon any action on the bond the licensee shall file a new
27	bond.
28	(e) A minimum net worth shall be continuously maintained for mortgage loan originators
29	in accordance with this section. In the event that the mortgage loan originator is an employee, a
30	lender or loan broker licensed under chapter 19-14, the net worth can be used in lieu of the
31	mortgage loan originator's minimum net worth requirement.
32	In addition:
33	(1) Minimum net worth shall be maintained in an amount that reflects the dollar amount
34	of loans originated as determined by the director or the director's designee.

under this chapter, if the director or the director's designee finds, on the record after notice and

1	(2) The director or the director's designee shall within one hundred twenty (120) days of
2	the effective date of this section promulgate rules or regulations with respect to the requirements
3	for minimum net worth as are necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.
4	19-14.10-15. Confidentiality. –In order to promote more effective regulation and reduce
5	regulatory burden through supervisory information sharing:
6	(1) Except as otherwise provided in public law 110-289, section 1512, the requirements
7	under any Federal law or chapter 2 of title 38 of the general laws of Rhode Island regarding the
8	privacy or confidentiality of any information or material provided to the nationwide mortgage
9	licensing system and registry, and any privilege arising under Federal or state law (including the
10	rules of any Federal or state court) with respect to such information or material, shall continue to
11	apply to such information or material after the information or material has been disclosed to the
12	nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry. Such information and material may be shared
13	with all state and Federal regulatory officials with mortgage industry oversight authority without
14	the loss of privilege or the loss of confidentiality protections provided by Federal or said chapter
15	2 of Title 38 of the general laws of Rhode Island.
16	(2) For these purposes, the director or the director's designee is authorized to enter
17	agreements or sharing arrangements with other governmental agencies, the Conference of State
18	Bank Supervisors, the American Association of Residential Mortgage Regulators or other
19	associations representing governmental agencies as established by rule, regulation or order of the
20	director or the director's designee.
21	(3) Information or material that is subject to a privilege or confidentiality under
22	subsection (a) of this section shall not be subject to:
23	(i) Disclosure under any Federal or state law governing the disclosure to the public of
24	information held by an officer or an agency of the Federal government or the respective state; or
25	(ii) Subpoena or discovery, or admission into evidence, in any private civil action or
26	administrative process, unless with respect to any privilege held by the nationwide mortgage
27	licensing system and registry with respect to such information or material, the person to whom
28	such information or material pertains waives, in whole or in part, in the discretion of such person,
29	that privilege.
30	(4) Section 19-4-3 relating to the disclosure of confidential supervisory information or
31	any information or material described in this section that is inconsistent with this section shall be
32	superseded by the requirements of this section.
33	(5) This section shall not apply with respect to the information or material relating to the
34	employment history of, and publicly adjudicated disciplinary and enforcement actions against,

1	mortgage loan originators that is included in the nationwide mortgage licensing system and
2	registry for access by the public.
3	19-14.10-16. Investigation and examination authority In addition to any authority
4	allowed under this chapter the director or the director's designee shall have the authority to
5	conduct investigations and examinations as follows:
6	(1) For purposes of initial licensing, license renewal, license suspension, license
7	conditioning, license revocation or termination, or general or specific inquiry or investigation to
8	determine compliance with this chapter, the director or the director's designee shall have the
9	authority to access, receive and use any books, accounts, records, files, documents, information or
10	evidence including but not limited to:
11	(i) Criminal, civil and administrative history information, including non-conviction data,
12	or other non-public record as specified in subparagraph 38-2-2(4)(D), specifically, or any other
13	criminal, civil, and administrative record deemed non-public under section 38-2-1 et seq.,
14	generally; and
15	(ii) Personal history and experience information including independent credit reports
16	obtained from a consumer reporting agency described in section 603(p) of the Federal Fair Credit
17	Reporting Act; and
18	(iii) Any other documents, information or evidence the director or the director's designee
19	deems relevant to the inquiry or investigation regardless of the location, possession, control or
20	custody of such documents, information or evidence.
21	(2) For the purposes of investigating violations or complaints arising under this chapter,
22	or for the purposes of examination, the director or the director's designee may review,
23	investigate, or examine any licensee, individual or person subject to this chapter, as often as
24	necessary in order to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The director or the director's
25	designee may direct, subpoena, or order the attendance of and examine under oath all persons
26	whose testimony may be required about the loans or the business or subject matter of any such
27	examination or investigation, and may direct, subpoena, or order such person to produce books,
28	accounts, records, files, and any other documents the director or the director's designee deems
29	relevant to the inquiry.
30	(3) Each licensee, individual or person subject to this chapter shall make available to the
31	director or the director's designee upon request the books and records relating to the operations of
32	such licensee, individual or person subject to this chapter. The director or the director's designee
33	shall have access to such books and records and interview the officers, principals, mortgage loan
34	originators employees independent contractors agents and customers of the licensee individual

1	or person subject to this chapter concerning their business.
2	(4) Each licensee, individual or person subject to this chapter shall make or compile
3	reports or prepare other information as directed by the director or the director's designee in order
4	to carry out the purposes of this section including but not limited to:
5	(i) Accounting compilations;
6	(ii) Information lists and data concerning loan transactions in a format prescribed by the
7	director or the director's designee; or
8	(iii) Such other information deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.
9	(5) In making any examination or investigation authorized by this chapter, the director or
10	the director's designee may control access to any documents and records of the licensee or person
11	under examination or investigation. The director or the director's designee may take possession of
12	the documents and records or place a person in exclusive charge of the documents and records in
13	the place where they are usually kept. During the period of control, no individual or person shall
14	remove or attempt to remove any of the documents and records except pursuant to a court order
15	or with the consent of the director or the director's designee. Unless the director or the director's
16	designee has reasonable grounds to believe the documents or records of the licensee have been, or
17	are at risk of being altered or destroyed for purposes of concealing a violation of this chapter, the
18	licensee or owner of the documents and records shall have access to the documents or records as
19	necessary to conduct its ordinary business affairs.
20	(6) In order to carry out the purposes of this section, the director or the director's
21	designee may:
22	(i) Retain attorneys, accountants, or other professionals and specialists as examiners,
23	auditors, or investigators to conduct or assist in the conduct of examinations or investigations;
24	(ii) Enter into agreements or relationships with other government officials or regulatory
25	associations in order to improve efficiencies and reduce regulatory burden by sharing resources,
26	standardize or uniform methods or procedures, and documents, records, information or evidence
27	obtained under this section;
28	(iii) Use, hire, contract or employ public or privately available analytical systems,
29	methods or software to examine or investigate the licensee, individual or person subject to this
30	<u>chapter;</u>
31	(iv) Accept and rely on examination or investigation reports made by other government
32	officials, within or without this state; or
33	(v) Accept audit reports made by an independent certified public accountant for the
34	licensee, individual or person subject to this chapter in the course of that part of the examination

2	report of the examination, report of investigation or other writing of the director or the director's
3	designee.
4	(7) The authority of this section shall remain in effect, whether such a licensee, individual
5	or person subject to this chapter acts or claims to act under any licensing or registration law of
6	this state, or claims to act without such authority.
7	(8) No licensee, individual or person subject to investigation or examination under this
8	section may knowingly withhold, abstract, remove, mutilate, destroy, or secrete any books
9	records, computer records, or other information.
10	19-14.10-17. Prohibited acts and practices It is a violation of this chapter for a
11	person or individual subject to this chapter to:
12	(1) Directly or indirectly employ any scheme, device, or artifice to defraud or mislead
13	borrowers or lenders or to defraud any person;
14	(2) Engage in any unfair or deceptive practice toward any person;
15	(3) Obtain property by fraud or misrepresentation;
16	(4) Solicit or enter into a contract with a borrower that provides in substance that the
17	person or individual subject to this chapter may earn a fee or commission through "best efforts"
18	to obtain a loan even though no loan is actually obtained for the borrower;
19	(5) Solicit, advertise, or enter into a contract for specific interest rates, points, or other
20	financing terms unless the terms are actually available at the time of soliciting, advertising, or
21	contracting;
22	(6) Conduct any business covered by this chapter without holding a valid license as
23	required under this chapter, or assist or aide and abet any person in the conduct of business under
24	this chapter without a valid license as required under this chapter;
25	(7) Fail to make disclosures as required by this chapter and any other applicable state or
26	federal law including regulations thereunder;
27	(8) Fail to comply with this chapter or rules or regulations promulgated under this
28	chapter, or fail to comply with any other state or federal law, including the rules and regulations
29	thereunder, applicable to any business authorized or conducted under this chapter;
30	(9) Make, in any manner, any false or deceptive statement or representation with regard
31	to the rates, points, or other financing terms or conditions for a residential mortgage loan, or
32	engage in bait and switch advertising;
33	(10) Negligently make any false statement or knowingly and willfully make any omission
34	of material fact in connection with any information or reports filed with a governmental agency

covering the same general subject matter as the audit and may incorporate the audit report in the

1	or the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry or in connection with any investigation
2	conducted by the director or the director's designee or another governmental agency;
3	(11) Make any payment, threat or promise, directly or indirectly, to any person for the
4	purposes of influencing the independent judgment of the person in connection with a residential
5	mortgage loan, or make any payment threat or promise, directly or indirectly, to any appraiser of
6	a property, for the purposes of influencing the independent judgment of the appraiser with respect
7	to the value of the property;
8	(12) Collect, charge, attempt to collect or charge or use or propose any agreement
9	purporting to collect or charge any fee prohibited by this chapter;
10	(13) Cause or require a borrower to obtain property insurance coverage in an amount that
11	exceeds the replacement cost of the improvements as established by the property insurer.
12	(14) Fail to truthfully account for monies belonging to a party to a residential mortgage
13	loan transaction.
14	19-14.10-18. Mortgage call reports Each lender, loan broker or mortgage loan
15	originator licensee shall submit to the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry reports
16	of condition, which shall be in such form and shall contain such information as the nationwide
17	mortgage licensing system and registry may require.
18	19-14.10-19. Report to nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry Subject
19	to state privacy law the director or the director's designee is required to report regularly violations
20	of this chapter, as well as enforcement actions and other relevant information, to the nationwide
21	mortgage licensing system and registry subject to the provisions contained in section 19-1-4-3.
22	<u>19-14.10-20. Reserved</u>
23	19-14.10-21. Unique identifier shown The name and the unique identifier of any
24	person originating a residential mortgage loan shall be clearly shown on all residential mortgage
25	loan application forms, solicitations or advertisements, including business cards or websites, and
26	any other documents as established by rule, regulation or order of the director or the director's
27	designee.
28	19-14.10-22. Severability If any provision of this chapter or its application to any
29	person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter or the application of the
30	provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
31	SECTION 4. Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect upon passage, provided that the
32	
	amendment to subsection 19-14-3(e) shall not be effective until the effective date of section 3.
33	amendment to subsection 19-14-3(e) shall not be effective until the effective date of section 3. With respect to section 3, the effective date for persons not licensed as mortgage loan originators

1	mortgage loan	originators as	of the effective	date shall be January	1, 2010, or such of	other dates as

2 approved by the U.S. department of housing and urban development.

LC02048/SUB A/2

EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

AN ACT

RELATING TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

1	This act would amend existing requirements for the licensing of mortgage loan
2	originators in order to effect the provisions of the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage
3	Licensing Act.
4	Sections 1 and 2 would take effect upon passage, provided that the amendment to
5	subsection 19-14-3(e) would not be effective until the effective date of section 3. With respect to
6	section 3, the effective date for persons not licensed as mortgage loan originators as of the
7	effective date would be July 31, 2009, and the effective date for all person licensed as mortgage
8	loan originators as of the effective date would be January 1, 2010, or such other dates as approved
9	by the U.S. department of housing and urban development.

LC02048/SUB A/2
