

SB 564 -CE Reporting - FAV - REALTORS.pdf

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Position: FAV



Senate Bill 564 – Real Estate Brokers - Licensing - License Renewals and Continuing Education

Position: Support

Maryland REALTORS® supports the Senate Bill 564, establishing a new timeframe for submission and processing of continuing education credits for real estate licensees.

Currently, real estate licensees must complete 15 hours of continuing education credits every 2 years to renew their license. There have been instances where those licensees have waited until the week or day before expiration to complete their credits. This has created difficulties for education providers to process credits and upload them into the Maryland Real Estate Commission's (MREC) database before the license expiration date.

To address this, MREC recently lowered the timeframe that real estate education providers have to upload CE credits from 14 business days to 3 business days. We have heard that this new limit is too constricted for education providers and that, as a result, they have considered reducing the CE credits they offer at a time or raising prices to reflect shorter processing times.

SB 564 would create a framework to address these issues. This would require that real estate licensees complete their CE credits 30 days prior to their license expiration date. Education providers would again be allowed 14 days to process and upload completed credits to MREC. The remaining time would allow licensees, education providers and the Commission to correct any discrepancies which may exist, before allowing the licensee to renew before expiration. In addition, there would be an option where a licensee could complete credits with less than 30 days before expiration, subject to an expedited processing fee.

Maryland REALTORS® asks for a favorable vote on SB 564.

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Uploaded by: Andrew Fulginiti

Position: FWA

February 12, 2024

Senator Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 564 Real Estate Brokers – Licensing – License Renewals and Continuing Education

Dear Chair Feldman and the Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Real Estate Commission (the “Commission”) I am writing to respectfully **support with amendments** SB 564, entitled “Real Estate Brokers – Licensing – License Renewals and Continuing Education.” This legislation repeals certain processes regarding the expiration of certain licenses for real estate brokers, associate real estate brokers, and real estate salespersons; requiring that certain licenses expire on a staggered basis; repeals a requirement that certain ethics courses discuss certain flipping and fraudulent practices; altering certain regulatory requirements for conducting certain continuing education courses; repeals certain requirements for completion and submission of certain continuing education courses; and requires that certain entities submit certain continuing education course information to the Commission under certain circumstances.

The Commission is in support of the legislation with the exception of page 3 lines 20 – 22 (3) “A licensee who fails to comply with paragraph (1)(IV) of the subsection shall be subject to a reasonable processing fee set by the Commission.” The Commission requests paragraph (1)(IV) be replaced with paragraph (E)(4) and “reasonable processing fee” be replaced with a “reinstatement fee” set by the Commission because a licensee is required to pay a reinstatement fee at the time of the expiration of a license. According to current Board policy, continuing education providers have up to three days to upload the licensees continuing education credits. It is not necessary for the Commission to charge a reasonable processing fee for work that is not being performed (i.e. uploading continuing education credits).

For these reasons, the Maryland Real Estate Commission respectfully requests favorable report with amendments from the Committee on SB 564.

Sincerely,

Raquel M. Meyers
Executive Director
Maryland Real Estate Commission

