



House Bill 859 – Real Estate Brokers - Licensing - License Renewals and Continuing Education

Position: Support

Maryland REALTORS® supports the House Bill 859, 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 HB 859.

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