

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM GOVERNOR STATE OF MICHIGAN OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE REGULATION DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH STANLEY "SKIP" PRUSS, DIRECTOR

KEN ROSS COMMISSIONER

December 18, 2008

Mortgage Loan Officer Registration Effective Date Extended from January 1, 2009 to April 1, 2009

Governor Granholm has signed into law Public Acts 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, and 328. The Governor's signing amends the Mortgage Brokers, Lenders, and Servicers Licensing Act ("MBLSLA"), the Secondary Mortgage Loan Act ("SMLA"), and the Michigan Code of Criminal Procedure.

Highlights of the amendatory language include:

- 1. Amendment to the effective date of mortgage loan officer registration from January 1, 2009 to **April 1, 2009**.
- 2. Extension to the deadline from December 3, 2008 to April 1, 2009 for an individual to obtain fingerprints and have an FBI and Michigan State Police criminal history check completed, pass the required Michigan mortgage loan officer examination, and with employer/sponsor attestation attest to and submit the required loan officer registration application (Form MU4) via the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System (NMLS) and the Michigan specific loan officer application (Form FIS 2080) without requiring 24 hours of pre-registration loan officer education*.
- 3. Extension to the deadline from December 31, 2008 to **March 31, 2009** for a residential mortgage originator and a loan officer to receive compensation in the origination of a mortgage loan.
- 4. Amendment to the MBLSLA and SMLA specifying that beginning January 1, 2009, the Michigan State Police and FBI may complete a mortgage loan officer criminal history check.
- 5. Amendment to the SMLA requiring fingerprints, a Michigan State Police and FBI criminal history check, pre-registration and continuing education, testing, and a secondary mortgage loan officer application (MU4 and FIS 2080) if the loan officer is not registered as a loan officer under the MBLSLA and will originate for a mortgage broker, lender, or servicer that only brokers, makes, or services secondary mortgage loans.
- 6. Granting of additional authority to the Mortgage Industry Advisory Board to review and make recommendations to the Commissioner concerning the SMLA.
- 7. Inclusion to expand the revenue sources and allowable uses of the MBLSLA Fund to include the revenue and administrative expenses of the SMLA.

* The amended statutory language now permits loan officers that have been originating mortgage loans for 4½ out of the previous 5 years immediately preceding April 3, 2008, to register without taking the 24 hour loan officer pre-registration education course if the individual has submitted all required documentation including the application and fees and passed the loan officer examination on or before April 1, 2009.

Loan officers through his/her mortgage broker, lender, and servicer employer/sponsor can now complete and submit the required loan officer registration application (Form MU4) via the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System (NMLS) and the Michigan specific loan officer application (Form FIS 2080).

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As a reminder, to be registered as a loan officer, an individual must meet all of the following:

- 1. Completed a 24 hour loan officer pre-registration education course*.
- 2. Passed the required Michigan loan officer examination.
- 3. Completed and submitted with employer/sponsor attestation the loan officer registration application (Form MU4) via the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System (NMLS) and the Michigan specific loan officer application (Form FIS 2080).
- 4. Paid the appropriate NMLS and loan officer registration fees.
- 5. Has been fingerprinted and had an FBI and Michigan State Police criminal history check completed (For procedures go to <u>www.michigan.gov/ofir</u>, click on Licensing, Mortgage Loan Officer Registration, How to Become Registered).
- 6. Has not been convicted of or pled no contest to a felony within the preceding 10 years.
- 7. Has not been convicted of or pled no contest to a felony or misdemeanor which involves embezzlement, fraud, forgery, financial transaction, or securities.
- 8. Has not been prohibited by the Commissioner.

* Loan officers that have been originating mortgage loans for 4½ out of the previous 5 years immediately preceding April 3, 2008, are not required to take the 24 hour loan officer pre-registration education course if the individual has submitted required documentation including the application and fees and passed the loan officer examination on or before April 1, 2009.

Loan officers are urged to immediately take the loan officer examination. Examination procrastinators may find that examination seating may not be readily available after March 1, 2009.

Finally, please be advised that individuals that meet the 24 hour loan officer pre-registration education course exemption are to be cautioned. The S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act, which was signed by the President of the United States in July 2008, requires a minimum 20 hours of loan originator pre-licensing education. It is anticipated that the individuals that have taken Michigan's 24 hours of pre-registration education will meet the S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act requirement. Individuals who are currently exempt from the 24 hour loan officer pre-registration education course exemption may, in the future, be required to meet the minimum 20 hours of loan originator education.

Questions concerning this Notice are to be addressed to Lori Thelen, Departmental Technician by telephone at 877.999.6442 or e-mail at <u>thelenl4@michigan.gov</u> of the Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Weigel

Mark W. Weigold, Director Consumer Finance Section