## REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

## MADAM PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

S. B. No. 2350: MS Mortgage Consumer Protection Law; extend repealer and make various amendments.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

- That the House recede from its Amendment No. 1.
- That the Senate and House adopt the following amendment: 2.

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

- Section 81-18-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 56
- 57 reenacted as follows:
- 81-18-1. This chapter shall be known and cited as the 58
- Mississippi Mortgage Consumer Protection Law. 59
- 60 SECTION 2. Section 81-18-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 61 reenacted and amended as follows:
- 62 81-18-3. For purposes of this chapter, the following terms
- shall have the following meanings: 63
- 64 "Application" means the submission of a borrower's
- 65 financial information in anticipation of a credit decision,
- 66 whether written or computer-generated. If the submission does not
- 67 state or identify a specific property, the submission is an
- application for a prequalification and not an application for a 68
- 69 federally related mortgage loan. The subsequent addition of an
- 70 identified property to the submission converts the submission to
- 71 an application for a federally related mortgage loan.
- 72 (b) "Borrower" means a person who submits an
- 73 application for a loan secured by a first or subordinate mortgage
- 74 or deed of trust on a single- to four-family home to be occupied
- 75 by a natural person.

- 76 (c) "Branch" means a location of a company in or
- 77 outside of the state that conducts business as a mortgage broker
- or mortgage lender \* \* \*. A location shall be considered a branch 78
- 79 in any of the following:
- 80 (i) If the location is used on any type of
- 81 advertisement;
- (ii) If any type of record, loan file or 82
- application of the company is located at the location, with the 83
- exception of unstaffed storage facilities; or 84
- 85 (iii) If a \* \* \* consumer is received at the
- 86 location or is directed to deliver any information by any means to
- the location in regards to Mississippi residential property. 87
- (d) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the 88
- Mississippi Department of Banking and Consumer Finance. 89
- (e) "Commitment" means a statement by a lender required 90
- 91 to be licensed \* \* \* under this chapter that sets forth the terms
- 92 and conditions upon which the lender is willing to make a
- 93 particular mortgage loan to a particular borrower.
- 94 (f) "Company" means a licensed mortgage broker or
- 95 mortgage lender under this chapter.
- (g) "Control" means the direct or indirect possession 96
- 97 of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management
- 98 and policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting
- 99 securities, by contract or otherwise, and shall include
- 100 "controlling," "controlled by," and "under common control with."
- 101 "Department" means the Department of Banking and (h)
- 102 Consumer Finance of the State of Mississippi.
- "Executive officer" means the chief executive 103 (i)
- officer, the president, the principal financial officer, the 104
- 105 principal operating officer, each vice president with
- responsibility involving policy-making functions for a significant 106
- 107 aspect of a person's business, the secretary, the treasurer, or

- 108 any other person performing similar managerial or supervisory
- 109 functions with respect to any organization whether incorporated or
- 110 unincorporated.
- 111 (j) "License" means a license to act as a mortgage
- 112 broker or mortgage lender issued by the department under this
- 113 chapter.
- (k) "Licensee" means a person \* \* \* who is required to 114
- be licensed as a mortgage broker or mortgage lender under this 115
- 116 chapter.
- (1) "Loan originator" means an individual who is an 117
- 118 employee of a \* \* \* mortgage broker or mortgage lender working
- from one licensed location, whose conduct of the mortgage business 119
- 120 is the responsibility of the company, and whose job
- responsibilities include direct contact with borrowers during the 121
- 122 loan origination process, which may include soliciting,
- 123 negotiating, acquiring, arranging or making mortgage loans for
- 124 others, \* \* \* assisting with the preparation of loan applications
- or other documents, quoting loan rates or terms, or providing 125
- 126 required disclosures. This individual must work for a
- 127 licensed \* \* \* company and work from the licensed location with
- 128 the department. However, an owner of a minimum of ten percent
- 129 (10%) of a licensed company or the named principal officer on file
- 130 with the department, which are registered loan originators with
- the department, may work from any licensed location of the 131
- 132 licensed company on a temporary basis, in the capacity of a loan
- originator as described in this chapter. The term does not 133
- 134 include individuals whose job responsibilities on behalf of a
- 135 company are solely clerical in nature, which is defined as normal
- office procedures, not including any duties listed in the 136
- 137 definition of "loan originator," or sales representatives of a
- 138 licensed Mississippi manufactured housing operation who transmits

| 139 | information | concerning | а | sale | via | mail, | courier | service, | or |
|-----|-------------|------------|---|------|-----|-------|---------|----------|----|
|     |             |            |   |      |     |       |         |          |    |

- electronically to a licensee or registered originator. 140
- 141 (m) "Loan processor" means an employee of a licensed
- 142 mortgage broker, mortgage lender or a person exempt from licensure
- 143 under this chapter and who performs, under the direction and
- supervision of the mortgage broker, lender, originator or other 144
- exempt person, certain clerical duties in connection with 145
- residential mortgage loan transactions, which may include 146
- 147 collecting financial information and other related documentation
- 148 that is a part of the mortgage loan application process, ordering
- 149 verification of employment, verification of deposits, requests for
- mortgage or other information necessary to process the mortgage 150
- 151 loan application. A loan processor may not perform any of the
- 152 duties of an originator enumerated in paragraph (1), but a loan
- originator may perform the duties of a loan processor. 153
- 154 (n) "Lock-in agreement" means a written agreement
- 155 stating the terms of the lock-in fee.
- (o) "Lock-in fee" means a fee collected by a licensee 156
- 157 to be paid to a lender to guarantee an interest rate or a certain
- 158 number of points on a mortgage loan from the lender.
- 159 "Make a mortgage loan" means to advance funds, (p)
- 160 offer to advance funds or make a commitment to advance funds to a
- 161 borrower.
- 162  $\underline{(q)}$  "Misrepresent" means to make a false statement of a
- 163 substantive fact or to engage in, with intent to deceive or
- 164 mislead, any conduct that leads to a false belief that is material
- 165 to the transaction.
- 166 \* \* \*
- 167 (r) "Mortgage broker" means any person who directly or
- 168 indirectly or by electronic activity solicits, places or
- negotiates mortgage loans for others, or offers to solicit, place 169
- 170 or negotiate mortgage loans for others that does not close

| 171 | mortgage loans in the company name, does not use its own funds, or |
|-----|--|
| 172 | who closes mortgage loans in the name of the company, and sells,   |
| 173 | assigns or transfers the loan to others within forty-eight (48)    |
| 174 | hours of the closing.  |
| 175 | (s) "Mortgage lender" means any person who directly or             |
| 176 | indirectly or by electronic activity originates, makes, funds or   |
| 177 | purchases or offers to originate, make, or fund or purchase a      |
| 178 | residential mortgage loan or who services mortgage loans.          |
| 179 | (t) "Mortgage lending process" means the process                   |
| 180 | through which a person seeks or obtains a mortgage loan,           |
| 181 | including, but not limited to, solicitation, application,          |
| 182 | origination, negotiation of terms, third-party provider services,  |
| 183 | underwriting, signing and closing, and funding of the loan.        |
| 184 | Documents involved in the mortgage lending process include, but    |
| 185 | are not limited to, uniform residential loan applications or other |
| 186 | loan applications, appraisal reports, HUD-1 settlement statements, |
| 187 | supporting personal documentation for loan applications such as    |
| 188 | W-2 forms, verifications of income and employment, bank            |
| 189 | statements, tax returns, payroll stubs and any required            |
| 190 | disclosures.   |
| 191 | (u) "Mortgage loan" means a loan or agreement to extend            |
| 192 | credit made to a natural person, which loan is secured by a deed   |
| 193 | to secure debt, security deed, mortgage, security instrument, deed |
| 194 | of trust or other document representing a security interest or     |
| 195 | loan upon any interest in a lot intended for residential purposes, |
| 196 | or single- to four-family residential property located in          |
| 197 | Mississippi, regardless of where made, including the renewal or    |
| 198 | refinancing of any loan.   |
| 199 | (v) "Multistate licensing system" means a system                   |
| 200 | involving one or more states, the District of Columbia or the      |
| 201 | Commonwealth of Puerto Rico established to facilitate the sharing  |
| 202 | of regulatory information and the licensing and application        |

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- processes, by electronic or other means, for mortgage brokers, 203
- 204 mortgage lenders and mortgage loan originators.
- 205 (w) "Natural person" means a human being, as
- 206 distinguished from an artificial person created by law.
- 207 (x)"Person" means any individual, sole proprietorship,
- 208 corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust or any
- other group of individuals, however organized. 209
- 210 "Principal" means a \* \* \* person who, directly or (y)
- 211 indirectly, owns or controls an ownership interest of ten percent
- 212 (10%) or more in a corporation or any other form of business
- 213 organization, regardless of whether the \* \* \* person owns or
- controls the ownership interest through one or more \* \* \* persons 214
- 215 or one or more proxies, powers of attorney, nominees,
- corporations, associations, limited liability companies, 216
- partnerships, trusts, joint-stock companies, other entities or 217
- 218 devises, or any combination thereof.
- 219 (z) "Principal officer" means an owner or employee of a
- 220 mortgage broker or mortgage lender who submits documentation of
- 221 two (2) years' experience directly related to mortgage lending,
- who registers as a loan originator as defined in this chapter, and 222
- who resides within one hundred twenty-five (125) miles of the 223
- 224 licensed main office of the company.
- 225 (aa) "Records" or "documents" means any item in hard
- 226 copy or produced in a format of storage commonly described as
- 227 electronic, imaged, magnetic, microphotographic or otherwise, and
- 228 any reproduction so made shall have the same force and effect as
- 229 the original thereof and be admitted in evidence equally with the
- 230 original.
- 231 "Registrant" means any person required to register
- 232 under Section 81-18-5(1).

- 233 (cc) "Residential immovable property" means property
- 234 such as, but not limited to, vinyl siding, roofs, pools, spas,
- appliances, windows, home additions, landscaping, fencing, etc. 235
- 236 "Residential property" means improved real
- 237 property or lot used or occupied, or intended to be used or
- 238 occupied, as a residence by a \* \* \* person.
- 239 "Service a mortgage loan" means the collection or (ee)
- 240 remittance for another, \* \* \* the right to collect or remit for
- 241 another, or the collection of the company's own loan portfolio,
- whether or not the company originated, funded or purchased the 242
- 243 loan in the secondary market, of payments of principal and
- interest, trust items such as insurance and taxes, and any other 244
- 245 payments pursuant to a mortgage loan.
- 246
- SECTION 3. Section 81-18-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 247
- 248 reenacted and amended as follows:
- 249 81-18-5. The following persons are not subject to the
- provisions of this chapter, unless otherwise provided in this 250
- 251 chapter:
- 252 Any person authorized to engage in business as a (a)
- 253 bank holding company or as a financial holding company, or any
- 254 wholly owned subsidiary thereof; however, the wholly owned
- 255 subsidiary must file a notification statement that includes the
- 256 following information:
- 257 (i) The name or names under which business will be
- 258 conducted in Mississippi;
- 259 (ii) The name and address of the parent financial
- 260 institution;
- (iii) The name, mailing address, telephone number, 261
- 262 and fax number of the person or persons responsible for handling
- 263 consumer inquiries and complaints;

- (iv) The name and address of the registered agent 264
- 265 for service of process in Mississippi;
- (v) A statement signed by the president or chief 266
- 267 executive officer of the entity stating that the entity will
- 268 receive and process consumer inquiries and complaints promptly,
- 269 fairly, and in compliance with all applicable laws; and
- 270 (vi) A fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).
- 271 The notification statement must be filed before beginning to
- 272 conduct a mortgage business in this state and must be updated by
- 273 the entity as the information changes. Any entity that fails to
- 274 file the notification statement or keep the information current
- will be immediately subject to the licensing requirements of 275
- 276 Section 81-18-9. This notification statement must be renewed
- 277 annually as of September 30 of each year with a renewal fee of One
- 278 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).
- 279 Any person authorized to engage in business as a
- 280 bank, credit card bank, savings bank, savings institution, savings
- and loan association, building and loan association, trust company 281
- 282 or credit union under the laws of the United States, any state or
- 283 territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia, the
- 284 deposits of which are federally insured, or any wholly owned
- 285 subsidiary thereof.
- \* \* \* 286
- 287 (c) Any lender holding a license under the Small Loan
- 288 Regulatory Law (Section 75-67-101 et seq.) and the Small Loan
- 289 Privilege Tax Law (Section 75-67-201 et seq.).
- 290 (d) Any attorney licensed to practice law in
- 291 Mississippi who provides mortgage loan services incidental to the
- practice of law and who is not a principal of a \* \* \* company as 292
- 293 defined under this chapter.
- 294 (e) A real estate company or licensed real estate
- 295 salesperson or broker who is actively engaged in the real estate

- business and who does not receive any fee, commission, kickback, 296 297 rebate or other payment for directly or indirectly negotiating, 298 placing or finding a mortgage for others.
- 299 (f) Any person performing any act relating to mortgage
- 300 loans under order of any court. 301 (g) Any person who is employed by and represents a 302 Mississippi manufactured housing operation and who makes a mortgage loan on manufactured housing and land transactions, 303 304 modular homes, or any combination thereof; any person who engages
- 305 in owner-financing; or any person engaged in the financing of a

property in not more than twelve (12) Mississippi residential

- 306 consumer loan secured by a mortgage on residential immovable
- 308 mortgage loans, or who contracts for no more than twelve (12)
- 309 Mississippi residential loan transactions, over the licensing
- period provided in this chapter, including those acting as 310
- 311 originators. The twelve (12) transactions are cumulative to any
- 312 combination of operations owned or controlled by any one
- 313 individual, sole proprietorship, corporation, limited liability
- 314 company, partnership, trust or any other group of individuals,
- 315 however organized. However, within thirty (30) days of loan
- 316 closure, the person shall submit to the commissioner a fee of Ten
- 317 Dollars (\$10.00), which is not chargeable to the consumer, and
- 318 written notification containing such loan information as required
- 319 by the commissioner, seeking approval to engage in a residential
- 320 mortgage transaction without first complying with the licensing
- provisions of this chapter. Any person who enters into more than 321
- 322 twelve (12) of those transactions in the licensing period provided
- 323 in this chapter must be licensed according to the procedures
- prescribed in this chapter. The fees paid for registration during 324
- 325 a licensing period will be deducted from the cost of an initial
- license. This paragraph (g) shall not include persons solely 326
- 327 involved in the making of a mortgage loan on modular homes.

| 328 | (h) Any natural person who purchases mortgage loans                      |
|-----|--|
| 329 | from a licensed mortgage <u>broker or mortgage lender</u> solely as an   |
| 330 | investment and who is not in the business of making or servicing         |
| 331 | mortgage loans.  |
| 332 | (i) Any person who makes a mortgage loan to his or her                   |
| 333 | employee as an employment benefit.                                       |
| 334 | (j) The United States of America, the State of                           |
| 335 | Mississippi or any other state, and any agency, division or              |
| 336 | corporate instrumentality thereof including, but not limited to,         |
| 337 | the Mississippi Home Corporation, Rural Economic Community               |
| 338 | Development (RECD), Habitat for Humanity, the Federal National           |
| 339 | Mortgage Association (FNMA), the Federal Home Loan Mortgage              |
| 340 | Company (FHLMC), the Government National Mortgage Association            |
| 341 | (GNMA), the United States Department of Housing and Urban                |
| 342 | Development (HUD), the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), the         |
| 343 | Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Farmers Home                    |
| 344 | Administration (FmHA), and the Federal Land Banks and Production         |
| 345 | Credit Associations.   |
| 346 | (k) Nonprofit corporations exempt from federal taxation                  |
| 347 | under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code making mortgage        |
| 348 | loans to promote home ownership or home improvements for the             |
| 349 | disadvantaged.   |
| 350 | (1) Loan originators as defined under Section                            |
| 351 | 81-18-3(j) are exempt from the licensing requirements of this            |
| 352 | chapter except for Sections 81-18-9(3)(d), 81-18-13, 81-18-15(3),        |
| 353 | 81-18-17, 81-18-37 and 81-18-43, but shall register with the             |
| 354 | department as a loan originator. Any * * * person required to            |
| 355 | register under this paragraph * * * shall register initially with        |
| 356 | the department and thereafter file an application for renewal of         |
| 357 | registration with the department on or before <u>December 31</u> of each |
| 358 | year providing the department with such information as the               |
| 359 | department may prescribe by regulation, including, but not limited       |

to, the business address where the person engages in any business 360 activities covered by this chapter, proof of at least one (1) year 361 of experience directly in mortgage lending within the two (2) 362 363 years prior to the date of application, the residential address of 364 the applicant and a telephone number that customers may use to 365 contact the person. If the person does not meet the experience requirement, then he or she shall complete a minimum of 366 twenty-four (24) hours of education as approved by the Mississippi 367 368 Association of Mortgage Brokers, the National Association of Mortgage Brokers, the Mortgage Bankers Association or the Mortgage 369 370 Bankers Association of Mississippi for the experience waiver. If the experience did not occur within the State of Mississippi, then 371 372 the department shall require the person to complete an education course of a minimum of four (4) hours covering the Mississippi 373 Mortgage Consumer Protection Law and to pass an examination 374 covering the cause material. This initial registration of a loan 375 376 originator shall be accompanied by a fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). Annual renewals of this registration shall require a 377 378 fee of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00). No person required to register 379 under this paragraph \* \* \* shall transact business in this state 380 directly or indirectly as a loan originator unless that person is 381 registered with the department. The loan originator shall display 382 the current, original registration issued by the department in the 383 licensed office in which he or she is assigned. 384 SECTION 4. Section 81-18-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 385 reenacted and amended as follows: 81-18-7. (1) On and after July 1, 2000, no person \* \* \* 386 387 shall transact business in this state, directly or indirectly, as a mortgage broker or mortgage lender unless he or she is 388

licensing requirements under Section 81-18-5.

licensed \* \* \* by the department or is a person exempted from the

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- 391 (2) A violation of this section does not affect the
- 392 obligation of the borrower under the terms of the mortgage loan.
- 393 The department shall publish and provide for distribution of
- 394 information regarding approved or revoked licenses.
- 395 (3) On and after July 1, 2000, every person who directly or
- 396 indirectly controls a person who violates this section, including
- 397 a general partner, executive officer, joint venturer, contractor,
- 398 or director of the person, violates this section to the same
- 399 extent as the person, unless the person whose violation arises
- 400 under this subsection shows by a preponderance of evidence the
- 401 burden of proof that he or she did not know and, in the exercise
- 402 of reasonable care, could not have known of the existence of the
- 403 facts by reason of which the original violation is alleged to
- 404 exist.
- 405 **SECTION 5.** Section 81-18-8, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 406 reenacted as follows:
- 407 81-18-8. Municipalities and counties in this state may enact
- 408 ordinances that are in compliance with, but not more restrictive
- 409 than, the provisions of this chapter. Any order, ordinance or
- 410 regulation existing on July 1, 2002, or enacted on or after July
- 411 1, 2002, that conflicts with this provision shall be null and
- 412 void.
- 413 SECTION 6. Section 81-18-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 414 reenacted and amended as follows:
- 415 81-18-9. (1) An application for a license under this
- 416 chapter shall be made in writing and in the form as the department
- 417 may prescribe.
- 418 (2) The application shall include at least the following:
- 419 (a) The legal name, residence, and business address of
- 420 the applicant and, if applicable the legal name, residence and
- 421 business address of every principal, together with the resume of
- 422 the applicant and of every principal of the applicant.

| 423 | (b) The legal name of the mortgage broker or mortgage                   |
|-----|---|
| 424 | <u>lender in addition to the</u> name under which the applicant will    |
| 425 | conduct business in the state, neither of which may be already          |
| 426 | assigned to a licensed mortgage broker or mortgage lender.              |
| 427 | (c) The complete address of the applicant's <u>main</u>                 |
| 428 | office, branch office(s) and any other locations at which the           |
| 429 | applicant will engage in any business activity covered by this          |
| 430 | chapter.  |
| 431 | (d) A copy of the certificate of incorporation, if a                    |
| 432 | Mississippi corporation.  |
| 433 | (e) Documentation satisfactory to the department as to                  |
| 434 | a certificate of existence of authority to transact business            |
| 435 | lawfully in Mississippi, if an individual, sole proprietorship,         |
| 436 | limited liability company, partnership, trust or any other group        |
| 437 | of individuals, however organized.                                      |
| 438 | (f) If a foreign corporation, a copy of a certificate                   |
| 439 | of authority to conduct business in Mississippi and the address of      |
| 440 | the main corporate office of the foreign corporation.                   |
| 441 | (g) Documentation of a minimum of two (2) years'                        |
| 442 | experience directly in mortgage lending by a person <u>named as the</u> |
| 443 | principal officer of the company. This experience shall have been       |
| 444 | within the previous four (4) years from the date of application.        |
| 445 | If the proof of experience is with a company that is located            |
| 446 | outside of Mississippi, then the principal officer shall be             |
| 447 | required to complete four (4) hours of approved courses on the          |
| 448 | Mississippi Mortgage Consumer Protection Law. The principal             |
| 449 | officer shall also register as a loan originator with the               |
| 450 | <u>department.</u> Evidence shall include, where applicable:            |
| 451 | (i) Copies of business licenses issued by                               |

person filing the application for at least two (2) years before

(ii) Written letters of employment history of the

governmental agencies.

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- the date of the filing of an application including, but not 455
- 456 limited to, job descriptions, length of employment, names,
- addresses and phone numbers for past employers. 457
- 458 (iii) A listing of wholesale lenders with whom the
- 459 applicant has done business with in the past two (2) years either
- 460 directly as a mortgage broker or loan originator.
- (iv) Any other data and pertinent information as 461
- 462 the department may require with respect to the applicant, its
- 463 directors, principals, trustees, officers, members, contractors or
- 464 A résumé alone shall not be sufficient proof of
- 465 employment history.
- 466
- 467 (3) The application shall be filed together with the
- 468 following:
- The license fee specified in Section 81-18-15; 469 (a)
- 470 A completed \* \* \* form signed by an owner, chief
- 471 executive officer or named principal officer authorizing the
- department to obtain information from outside sources for each 472
- 473 person, executive officer and employee;
- 474 (c) An original or certified copy of a surety bond in
- 475 favor of the State of Mississippi for the use, benefit, and
- 476 indemnity of any person who suffers any damage or loss as a result
- 477 of the \* \* \* company's breach of contract or of any obligation
- 478 arising therefrom or any violation of law; and
- 479 (d) Except as provided in this paragraph (d), a set of
- 480 fingerprints from any local law enforcement agency from the
- 481 following applicants:
- (i) All persons operating as a sole proprietorship 482
- that plan to conduct a mortgage brokering or lending business in 483
- 484 the State of Mississippi;

486 of a limited liability company that own at least ten percent (10%) 487 of the voting shares of the company; 488 (iii) \* \* \* Any shareholders owning ten percent 489 (10%) or more of the outstanding shares of the corporation; and 490 (iv) All loan originators. 491 SECTION 7. Section 81-18-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is reenacted and amended as follows: 492 493 81-18-11. (1) For purposes of Section 81-18-9, the 494 definitions of the classes of companies and their respective 495 minimum amounts of surety bonds will be: 496 497 (a) "Mortgage broker" shall be defined as any person 498 that directly solicits, processes, places or negotiates mortgage 499 loans for others and that does not close mortgage loans in the 500 company name, does not use its own funds, or who closes mortgage 501 loans in the name of the company, and sells, assigns or transfers the loan to others within forty-eight (48) hours of the closing. 502 503 The amount of the surety bond for mortgage brokers shall be 504 Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00). 505 "Mortgage lender" shall be defined as any company (b) 506 that makes a mortgage loan, using its own funds, for others or for 507 compensation or gain, with the expectation of retaining servicing 508 rights to those loans, or in the expectation of gain, either directly or indirectly, sells or offers to sell a mortgage loan to 509 510 an investor in the secondary market. This definition includes 511 companies that utilize the services of a person exempted or 512 licensed under this chapter to make a mortgage loan, or purchase or service a mortgage loan, or who services mortgage loans only, 513 514 including loans in the company's own portfolio. The amount of the surety bond for a mortgage lender shall be One Hundred Fifty 515 516 Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00). However, any licensed company

(ii) Partners in a partnership or principal owners

- that was required by this chapter before July 1, 2007, to hold a 517
- surety bond in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) 518
- 519 shall not be required to increase its bond until its 2007 license
- 520 year renewal.
- 521 (2) All surety bonds shall be in favor, first, of the State
- 522 of Mississippi for the use, benefit and indemnity of any person
- who suffers any damage or loss as a result of the \* \* \* company's 523
- breach of contract or of any obligation arising from contract or 524
- 525 any violation of law, and, second, for the payment of any civil
- 526 penalties, criminal fines, or costs of investigation and/or
- 527 prosecution incurred by the State of Mississippi, including local
- law enforcement agencies. 528
- 529 SECTION 8. Section 81-18-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 530 reenacted and amended as follows:
- 531 81-18-13. (1) Upon receipt of an application for licensure
- 532 or registration, which shall include the required set of
- 533 fingerprints from any local law enforcement agency, the department
- or designated third party shall conduct such an investigation as 534
- 535 it deems necessary to determine that the applicant and its
- 536 officers, directors and principals are of good character and
- ethical reputation; that the applicant demonstrates reasonable 537
- 538 financial responsibility; and that the applicant has reasonable
- 539 policies and procedures to receive and process customer grievances
- 540 and inquiries promptly and fairly.
- 541 (2) The department shall not license an applicant unless it
- 542 is satisfied that the applicant will operate its mortgage \* \* \*
- 543 activities in compliance with the laws, rules and regulations of
- this state and the United States. 544
- (3) The department shall not license any mortgage broker or 545
- 546 mortgage lender unless the applicant meets the requirements of
- 547 Section 81-18-11.

| 548 | (4) The department shall not issue a license or                    |
|-----|--|
| 549 | registration * * * if it finds that the applicant, or any person   |
| 550 | who is a director, officer, partner or principal officer of the    |
| 551 | applicant, has been convicted * * * of: (a) a felony in any        |
| 552 | jurisdiction; or (b) a crime that, if committed within this state, |
| 553 | would constitute a felony under the laws of this state; or (c) a   |
| 554 | misdemeanor * * * of fraud, theft, forgery, bribery, embezzlement  |
| 555 | or making a fraudulent or false statement in any jurisdiction.     |
| 556 | The department may renew the existing license or registration of   |
| 557 | any such applicant or person who holds a license or registration   |
| 558 | on July 1, 2007. However, any person submitting an initial         |
| 559 | application for license or registration with a different company   |
| 560 | after July 1, 2007, in which the background check discloses a      |
| 561 | felony or misdemeanor as described in this subsection shall be     |
| 562 | denied licensure or registration by the department. For the        |
| 563 | purposes of this chapter, a person shall be deemed to have been    |
| 564 | convicted of a crime if the person has pleaded guilty to a crime   |
| 565 | before a court or federal magistrate, or plea of nolo contendere,  |
| 566 | or has been found guilty of a crime by the decision or judgment of |
| 567 | a court or federal magistrate or by the verdict of a jury,         |
| 568 | irrespective of the pronouncement of sentence or the suspension of |
| 569 | a sentence, unless the plea of guilty, or the decision, judgment   |
| 570 | or verdict, has been set aside, reversed or otherwise abrogated by |
| 571 | lawful judicial process, or unless the person convicted of the     |
| 572 | crime has received a pardon from the President of the United       |
| 573 | States or the Governor or other pardoning authority in the         |
| 574 | jurisdiction where the conviction was obtained.                    |
| 575 | (5) In order to determine the applicant's suitability for a        |
| 576 | license, the commissioner or a designated third party shall        |
| 577 | forward the fingerprints submitted with the application to the     |

Department of Public Safety; and if no disqualifying record is

identified at the state level, the fingerprints shall be forwarded

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- by the Department of Public Safety or a designated third party to 580 581 the FBI for a national criminal history record check. All 582 conviction data received by the department shall be used by the 583 department for the exclusive purpose of carrying out the 584 responsibilities of this chapter, may not be a public record, 585 shall be privileged, and may not be disclosed to any other person 586 or agency, except to any person or agency that otherwise has a 587 legal right to inspect the file. All records shall be maintained 588 by the department according to law, except as provided in the 589 uniform multistate administration of an automated licensing system 590 for mortgage brokers, mortgage lenders and loan originators. used in this section "conviction data" means a record of a finding 591 592 or verdict of guilty or plea of guilty or plea of nolo contendere 593 with regard to any crime regardless of whether an appeal of the 594 conviction has been sought.
- 595 (6) The department shall deny a license or 596 registration \* \* \* or otherwise restrict a license or registration \* \* \* if it finds that the applicant, or any person 597 598 who is a director, officer, partner, affiliate, contractor or 599 principal of the applicant, has had any professional license 600 denied, revoked or suspended by any state within two (2) years of 601 the date of the application.
- 602 (7) Within fifteen (15) days after receipt of a completed 603 application, final verification from the Department of Public 604 Safety and/or FBI, and payment of licensing fees prescribed by 605 this chapter, the department shall either grant or deny the 606 request for license.
- 607 (8) A person shall not be indemnified for any act covered by this chapter or for any fine or penalty incurred under this 608 609 chapter as a result of any violation of this chapter or 610 regulations adopted under this chapter, due to the legal form,

- corporate structure, or choice of organization of the person, 611 612 including, but not limited to, a limited liability corporation. SECTION 9. Section 81-18-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 613 614 reenacted and amended as follows: 615 81-18-15. (1) Each license shall remain in full force and 616 effect until relinquished, suspended, revoked or expired. 617 each initial application for a license to operate as a mortgage broker or mortgage lender, the applicant shall pay to the 618 619 commissioner a license fee of Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars 620 (\$750.00), and on or before December 31 of each year thereafter, 621 an annual renewal fee of Four Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$475.00). If the annual renewal fee remains unpaid \* \* \*, the 622 623 license shall expire, but not before December 31 of any year for which the annual renewal fee has been paid. If any person engages 624 625 in business as provided for in this chapter without paying the 626 license fee provided for in this subsection before commencing 627 business or before the expiration of the person's current license, as the case may be, then the person shall be liable for the full 628 629 amount of the license fee, plus a penalty in an amount not to 630 exceed Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for each day that the person 631 has engaged in such business without a license or after the 632 expiration of a license. All licensing fees and penalties shall 633 be paid into the Consumer Finance Fund of the department. If the 634 application is withdrawn or denied, the application fee is not 635 refundable. 636 (2) Any licensee making timely and proper application for a 637 license renewal shall be permitted to continue to operate under
- 638 its existing license until its application is approved or rejected, but shall not be released from or otherwise indemnified 639 640 for any act covered by this chapter or for any penalty incurred 641 under this chapter as a result of any violation of this chapter or

- regulations adopted under this chapter, pending final approval or disapproval of the application for the license renewal.
- 644 (3) Each application for licensing renewal or registration
- 645 renewal shall include evidence of the satisfactory completion of
- 646 at least twelve (12) hours of approved continuing education in
- 647 primary and subordinated financing transactions by the principal
- 648 officer on file with the department \* \* \* and registered loan
- 649 originators. Two (2) of the twelve (12) hours shall consist of
- 650 instruction on the Mississippi Mortgage Consumer Protection Law
- and shall be approved by the department once the course is
- 652 approved by the Mississippi Association of Mortgage Brokers, the
- National Association of Mortgage Brokers, the Mortgage Bankers
- 654 Association or the Mortgage Bankers Association of Mississippi.
- 655 For purposes of this subsection (3), approved courses shall be
- 656 those as approved by the \* \* \* Mortgage Bankers Association,
- 657 the \* \* \* National Association of Mortgage Brokers, the
- 658 Mississippi Association of Mortgage Brokers or the Mortgage
- 659 Bankers Association of Mississippi, who shall submit to the
- 660 department a listing of approved schools, courses, programs and
- 661 special training sessions. However, each application for
- 662 licensing renewal or registration renewal of manufactured housing
- 663 licensees or originators shall include evidence of the
- 664 satisfactory completion of at least twelve (12) hours of
- 665 continuing education, of which eight (8) hours must be approved by
- 666 the Commissioner of Insurance and four (4) hours consisting of
- 667 courses in primary and subordinated financing transactions must be
- 668 approved by the Mississippi Manufactured Housing Association,
- 669 which shall submit to the department a listing of those approved
- 670 schools, courses, programs and special training sessions. A
- 671 manufactured housing licensee or <a href="loan"><u>loan</u></a> originator may submit
- 672 evidence of completion of courses that have been approved by
- 673 the \* \* \* Mortgage Bankers Association, the \* \* \* National

- Association of Mortgage Brokers, the Mississippi Association of 674
- 675 Mortgage Brokers or the Mortgage Bankers Association of
- 676 Mississippi to satisfy the four-hour requirement of courses in
- 677 primary and subordinated financing transactions.
- 678 SECTION 10. Section 81-18-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- reenacted and amended as follows: 679
- 680 81-18-17. (1) Each license or registration issued under
- 681 this chapter shall state the address of the licensee's principal
- 682 place of business, the registrant's assigned licensed location and
- 683 the name of the licensee or registrant.
- 684 (2) A licensee or registrant shall post the original license
- 685 or original registration in a conspicuous place in the assigned
- 686 place of business of the licensee.
- 687 (3) A license or registration may not be transferred or
- 688 assigned.
- No licensee or registrant shall transact business under 689
- 690 any name other than that designated in the license or
- 691 registration.
- 692 (5) Each licensee shall notify the department, in writing,
- 693 of any change in the address of its principal place of business or
- registered loan originator or of any additional location of 694
- 695 business or any change of officer, director or principal of the
- 696 licensee, or registered loan originator within thirty (30) days of
- 697 the change.
- 698 (6) No licensee shall open a branch office in this state or
- 699 a branch office outside this state from which the licensee has
- direct contact with \* \* \* consumers regarding origination or 700
- 701 brokering Mississippi residential property, without prior approval
- 702 of the department. An application for any branch office shall be
- 703 made in writing on a form prescribed by the department, which
- 704 shall include at least evidence of compliance with subsection (1)
- 705 of Section 81-18-25 as to that branch and shall be accompanied by

- payment of a nonrefundable application fee of One Hundred Dollars 706 (\$100.00) and at least one (1) loan originator application 707 708 registered at that branch office. The application shall be 709 approved unless the department finds that the applicant has not 710 conducted business under this chapter in accordance with law. 711 application shall be deemed approved if notice to the contrary has not been mailed by the department to the applicant within thirty 712 (30) days of the date that the complete application is received by 713 the department. After approval, the applicant shall give written 714 715 notice to the department within ten (10) days of the commencement 716 of business at the branch office. Each branch office that currently holds a branch license shall renew that branch license 717 718 before the expiration date of the main company license, on or before December 31. The license renewal shall be on a form 719
- 722 SECTION 11. Section 81-18-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 723 reenacted as follows:

prescribed by the department with a nonrefundable renewal

application fee of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00).

- 724 81-18-19. (1) Except as provided in this section, no person 725 shall acquire directly or indirectly twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the voting shares of a corporation or twenty-five percent 726 727 (25%) or more of the ownership of any other entity licensed to 728 conduct business under this chapter unless it first files an 729 application in accordance with the requirements prescribed in 730 Section 81-18-9.
- 731 (2) Upon the filing and investigation of an application, the 732 department shall permit the applicant to acquire the interest in the licensee if it is satisfied and finds that the applicant and 733 734 its members, if applicable, its directors and officers, if a 735 corporation, and any proposed new directors and officers have provided its surety bond and have the character, reputation and 736 737 experience to warrant belief that the business will be operated

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- 738 fairly and in accordance with the law. If the application is
- 739 denied, the department shall notify the applicant of the denial
- 740 and the reasons for the denial.
- 741 A decision of the department denying a license or
- 742 registration, original or renewal shall be conclusive, except that
- 743 the applicant may seek judicial review in the Chancery Court of
- the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi. 744
- 745 (4) The provisions of this section do not apply to the
- 746 following, subject to notification as required in this section:
- 747 (a) The acquisition of an interest in a licensee
- 748 directly or indirectly including an acquisition by merger or
- consolidation by or with a person registered under this chapter or 749
- 750 exempt from this chapter under Section 81-18-5.
- 751 (b) The acquisition of an interest in a licensee
- 752 directly or indirectly including an acquisition by merger or
- 753 consolidation by or with a person affiliated through common
- 754 ownership with the licensee.
- 755 (c) The acquisition of an interest in a licensee by a
- 756 person by bequest, device, gift or survivorship or by operation of
- 757 law.
- 758 (5) A person acquiring an interest in a licensee in a
- 759 transaction that is requesting exemption from filing an
- 760 application for approval of the application shall send a written
- 761 request to the department for an exemption within thirty (30) days
- 762 before the closing of the transaction.
- 763 SECTION 12. Section 81-18-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- reenacted and amended as follows: 764
- 765 81-18-21. (1) Any person required to be licensed under this
- chapter shall maintain in its offices, or such other location as 766
- 767 the department shall permit, the books, accounts and records
- 768 necessary for the department to determine whether or not the
- 769 person is complying with the provisions of this chapter and the

- rules and regulations adopted by the department under this 770 771 These books, accounts and records shall be maintained 772 apart and separate from any other business in which the person is 773 involved and may represent historical data for three (3) years 774 preceding the date of the last license application date forward. 775 The books, accounts and records shall be kept in a secure location 776 under conditions that will not lead to their damage or 777 destruction. If the licensee wishes to keep the files in a 778 location other than the location listed on the license \* \* \*, then 779 the licensee first must submit a written request on a form 780 designated by the department and gain written approval from the 781 commissioner before storing the files at an off-site secure 782 location.
- 783 (2) To assure compliance with the provisions of this 784 chapter, the department may examine the books and records of any 785 licensee without notice during normal business hours. 786 commissioner shall charge the licensee an examination fee in an amount not less than Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) nor more than 787 Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) for each office or location within 788 789 the State of Mississippi, plus any actual expenses incurred while examining the licensee's records or books that are located outside 790 791 the State of Mississippi. However, in no event shall a licensee 792 be examined more than once in a two-year period unless for cause 793 shown based upon consumer complaint and/or other exigent reasons 794 as determined by the commissioner.
- 795 The department, its designated officers and employees, 796 or its duly authorized representatives, for the purposes of 797 discovering violations of this chapter and for the purpose of determining whether any person or individual reasonably suspected 798 799 by the commissioner of conducting business that requires a license 800 or registration under this chapter, may investigate those persons 801 and individuals and examine all relevant books, records and papers

- employed by those persons or individuals in the transaction of 802 803 business, and may summon witnesses and examine them under oath 804 concerning matters as to the business of those persons, or other 805 such matters as may be relevant to the discovery of violations of 806 this chapter including, without limitation, the conduct of 807 business without a license or registration as required under this
- 809 The department, in its discretion, may disclose 810 information concerning any violation of this chapter or any rule, 811 regulation, or order under this chapter, provided the information 812 is derived from a final order of the department.
- (5) Examinations and investigations conducted under this 813 814 chapter and information obtained by the department, except as 815 provided in subsection (4) of this section, in the course of its 816 duties under this chapter are confidential.
- 817 (6) In the absence of malice, fraud or bad faith a person is 818 not subject to civil liability arising from the filing of a complaint with the department, furnishing other information 819 820 required by this chapter, information required by the department 821 under the authority granted in this chapter, or information 822 voluntarily given to the department related to allegations that a 823 licensee or prospective licensee has violated this chapter.
- 824 SECTION 13. Section 81-18-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 825 reenacted and amended as follows:
- 81-18-23. (1) Each company shall annually, on or before 826 March 31, file a written report with the department containing the 827 828 December 31 information that the department may reasonably require 829 concerning the company's business and operations during the preceding calendar year. The report shall be made in the form 830 831 prescribed by the department.
- (2) Any company that fails to file with the department by 832 833 January 31 the report required by this section shall be subject to

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chapter.

- a late penalty of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for each day after January 834
- 835 31 the report is delinquent, but in no event shall the aggregate
- of late penalties exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00). 836
- 837 The department, in its discretion, may relieve any
- 838 company from the payment of any penalty, in whole or in part, for
- 839 good cause.
- 840 (4) If a company fails to pay a penalty from which it has
- not been relieved, the department may maintain an action at law to 841
- 842 recover the penalty.
- 843 (5) Within fifteen (15) days of the occurrence of any of the
- 844 following events, a company shall file a written report with the
- commissioner describing the event and its expected impact on the 845
- 846 activities of the company in this state:
- 847 (a) The filing for bankruptcy or reorganization by the
- 848 company;
- The institution of revocation or suspension 849 (b)
- 850 proceedings against the company by any state or governmental
- 851 authority;
- 852 (c) Any felony indictment of the company or any of its
- 853 directors, executive officers, principal officer or loan
- originators; \* \* \* 854
- 855 (d) Any felony conviction of the company or any of its
- 856 directors, executive officers, principal officer or loan
- 857 originators; or
- 858 (e) Any misdemeanor conviction, in which fraud is an
- 859 essential element, of any of the company's directors, executive
- 860 officers, principal officer or loan originators.
- 861 If the company, owner, principal officer of a company or
- registered loan originator is involved in a civil action 862
- 863 concerning the company, then the person shall notify the
- 864 commissioner in writing within sixty (60) days after the initial
- 865 filing of the civil action.

| 866 | SECTION 14. Section 81-18-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is       |
|-----|--|
| 867 | reenacted and amended as follows:                                |
| 868 | 81-18-25. (1) Each principal place of business and branch        |
| 869 | office in the state shall meet all of the following requirements |
| 870 | (a) Be in compliance with local zoning ordinances and            |

- 871 have posted any licenses required by local government agencies. It is the responsibility of the licensee to meet local zoning 872 ordinances and obtain the required occupational licenses; however, 873 874 zoning cannot be residential. If there is no zoning in the area, 875 then the person shall submit to the department a letter from the 876 city or county stating that there is no zoning.
- 877 (b) Consist of at least one (1) secure enclosed room or 878 secure building of stationary construction in which negotiations 879 of mortgage loan transactions may be conducted in privacy. 880 Stationary construction does not include the use of portable 881 buildings. If there is no zoning in the requested location and 882 the property is used for residential purposes, then the person shall utilize an enclosed room with a dedicated outside door. 883
- 884 (c) Display a permanent sign outside the place of 885 business readily visible to the general public, unless the display of sign violates local zoning ordinances or restrictive covenants. 886 887 The sign must contain the name of the licensee and the words 888 "Mississippi Licensed Mortgage Company" or "Mississippi Registered 889 Mortgage Company" or, if the initial license is obtained after 890 July 1, 2007, the words "Licensed by the Mississippi Department of 891 Banking and Consumer Finance".
- (2) Each licensee shall prominently display the original 892 893 license at the principal place of business and each branch office.
- (3) Each person registered under this chapter shall 894 895 prominently display his or her original registration in the office 896 where the person is employed.

- (4) If one (1) of the following is correct, then that 897
- 898 location shall be licensed as a mortgage broker or mortgage lender
- under this chapter and not as a branch: 899
- 900 It is a separate entity operating as an independent
- 901 business or mortgage operation which is not under the direct
- 902 control, management supervision and responsibility of the
- 903 licensee;
- 904 (b) The licensee \* \* \* is not the lessee or owner of
- 905 the branch and the branch is not under the direct and daily
- 906 ownership, control, management and supervision of the
- licensee \* \* \*; 907
- 908 (c) All assets and liabilities of the branch are not
- 909 assets and liabilities of the licensee, and all income and
- 910 expenses of the branch are income and expenses of the licensee and
- properly accounted for in the financial records and tax returns of 911
- 912 the licensee; or
- 913 (d) All practices, policies and procedures, including,
- 914 but not limited to, those relating to employment and operations,
- 915 are not originated and established by the licensee or registered
- 916 company and are not applied consistently to the main office and
- 917 all branches.
- 918 Nothing in this subsection (4) shall affect or change, or be
- 919 construed as affecting or changing, the existing statutory law and
- 920 common law on agency, principal and agent, independent
- 921 contractors, and parent and subsidiary companies.
- 922 SECTION 15. Section 81-18-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- reenacted and amended as follows: 923
- 924 81-18-27. (1) No person required to be licensed or
- 925 registered under this chapter shall:
- 926 (a) Misrepresent the material facts or make false
- 927 promises intended to influence, persuade or induce an applicant

- 928 for a mortgage loan or mortgagee to take a mortgage loan or cause 929 or contribute to misrepresentation by its agents or employees.
- 930 (b) Misrepresent to or conceal from an applicant for a 931 mortgage loan or mortgagor, material facts, terms or conditions of 932 a transaction to which the licensee is a party.
- 933 (c) Fail to disburse funds in accordance with a written 934 commitment or agreement to make a mortgage loan.
- 935 (d) Improperly refuse to issue a satisfaction of a 936 mortgage loan.
- 937 Fail to account for or deliver to any person any 938 personal property obtained in connection with a mortgage loan, such as money, funds, deposits, checks, drafts, mortgages or other 939 940 documents or things of value that have come into the possession of 941 the licensee and that are not the property of the licensee, or 942 that the licensee is not by law or at equity entitled to retain.
- 943 Engage in any transaction, practice, or course of 944 business that is not in good faith, or that operates a fraud upon any person in connection with the making of or purchase or sale of 945 946 any mortgage loan, including the use of white-out on any document 947 associated with the mortgage loan.
- 948 Engage in any fraudulent residential mortgage (g) 949 underwriting practices.
- 950 (h) Induce, require, or otherwise permit the applicant 951 for a mortgage loan or mortgagor to sign a security deed, note, or 952 other pertinent financial disclosure documents with any blank 953 spaces to be filled in after it has been signed, except blank 954 spaces relating to recording or other incidental information not 955 available at the time of signing.
- (i) Make, directly or indirectly, any residential 956 957 mortgage loan with the intent to foreclose on the borrower's 958 property. For purposes of this paragraph, there is a presumption 959 that a person has made a residential mortgage loan with the intent

| 960 | to foreclose of | on the | borro  | wer's | property   | if all  | of | the | following |
|-----|-----------------|--------|--------|-------|------------|---------|----|-----|-----------|
| 961 | circumstances   | are pi | coven: |       |            |         |    |     |           |
| 962 |                 | (i)    | Lack   | of sı | ıbstantial | benefit | to | the | borrower  |

(ii) The probability that full payment of the loan

964 cannot be made by the borrower;

- (iii) That the person has made a significant 965 966 proportion of loans foreclosed under similar circumstances;
- 967 (iv) That the person has provided an extension of 968 credit or collected a mortgage debt by extortion;
- 969 (v) That the person does business under a trade 970 name that misrepresents or tends to misrepresent that the person is a bank, trust company, savings bank, savings and loan 971 972 association, credit union, or insurance company.
- 973 (j) Charge or collect any direct payment, compensation 974 or advance fee from a borrower unless and until a loan is actually found, obtained and closed for that borrower, and in no event 975 976 shall that direct payment, compensation or advance fee exceed 977 seven and ninety-five one-hundredths percent (7.95%) of the 978 original principal amount of the loan, and any such direct 979 payments, compensation or advance fees shall be included in all 980 annual percentage rate (APR) calculations if required under 981 Regulation Z of the federal Truth in Lending Act (TILA). A direct 982 payment, compensation or advance fee as defined in this section 983 shall not include:
- 984 (i) Any direct payment, compensation or advance 985 fee collected by a licensed mortgage broker or mortgage lender to 986 be paid to a nonrelated third party;
- 987 (ii) Any indirect payment to a licensed mortgage broker or mortgage lender by a lender if those fees are not 988 989 required to be disclosed under the Real Estate Settlement 990 Procedures Act (RESPA);

| 991  | (iii) Any indirect payment or compensation by a                             |
|------|---|
| 992  | lender to a <u>licensee</u> required to be disclosed by the <u>licensee</u> |
| 993  | under RESPA, provided that the payment or compensation is                   |
| 994  | disclosed to the borrower by the <u>licensee</u> on a good faith estimate   |
| 995  | of costs, is included in the APR if required under Regulation Z of          |
| 996  | TILA, and is made pursuant to a written agreement between the               |
| 997  | <u>licensee</u> and the borrower as may be required by Section 81-18-33;    |
| 998  | (iv) A fee not to exceed one percent (1%) of the                            |
| 999  | principal amount of a loan for construction, provided that a                |
| 1000 | binding commitment for the loan has been obtained for the                   |
| 1001 | prospective borrower; or  |
| 1002 | (v) An advance fee, known as a lock-in fee,                                 |
| 1003 | collected by a <u>licensee</u> to be paid to a lender to lock in an         |
| 1004 | interest rate and/or a certain number of points on a mortgage loan          |
| 1005 | from the lender as provided in Section 81-18-28.                            |
| 1006 | (k) Pay to any person not licensed or registered under                      |
| 1007 | the provisions of this chapter any commission, bonus or fee in              |
| 1008 | connection with arranging for or originating a mortgage loan for a          |
| 1009 | borrower, except that a registered loan originator may be paid a            |
| 1010 | bonus, commission, or fee by his or her licensed employer.                  |
| 1011 | (1) Refuse to provide the loan payoff within three (3)                      |
| 1012 | business days of an oral or written request from a borrower or              |
| 1013 | third party. Proof of authorization of the borrower shall be                |
| 1014 | submitted for a third-party request.  |
| 1015 | (m) Knowingly withhold, extract, remove, mutilate,                          |
| 1016 | destroy or conceal any books, records, computer records or other            |
| 1017 | information which are required by law to be disclosed.                      |
| 1018 | (2) A <u>licensed</u> mortgage <u>broker or mortgage lender</u> shall only  |
| 1019 | broker a residential mortgage loan to a mortgage broker or                  |
| 1020 | mortgage lender licensed * * * under this chapter or to a person            |
| 1021 | exempt from licensure under the provisions of this chapter.                 |

- 1022 (3) No nonbanking entity may use any sign or hand-written or printed paper indicating that it is a bank, savings bank, trust 1023 company or place of banking. No entity may use the word "bank," 1024 "savings bank," "banking," "banker" or "trust company," or the 1025 1026 equivalent or plural of any of these words, in connection with any 1027 business other than that of banking. This subsection does not 1028 prohibit a person from acting in a trust capacity. (4) No person shall use the name or logo of any banking 1029 1030 entity in connection with the sale, offering for sale, or 1031 advertising of any financial product or service without the 1032 express written consent of the banking entity. SECTION 16. Section 81-18-28, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 1033 1034 reenacted and amended as follows: 1035 81-18-28. (1) A licensed mortgage broker or mortgage lender may enter into lock-in agreements and collect a lock-in fee from a 1036 borrower on the lender's behalf. The lock-in fee shall not exceed 1037 1038 the following: (a) No fee may be collected to lock in for sixty (60) 1039 1040 days or less; 1041 One percent (1%) of the principal amount of the 1042 loan to lock in for more than sixty (60) days, but not to exceed 1043 one hundred eighty (180) days; (c) One and one-half percent (1-1/2%) of the principal 1044 1045 amount of the loan to lock in for more than one hundred eighty 1046 (180) days, but not to exceed two hundred seventy (270) days; or 1047 (d) Two percent (2%) of the principal amount of the
- 1049 (2) Before the collection of a lock-in fee, the applicant 1050 must be provided a copy of the lock-in fee agreement. This 1051 agreement shall contain at least the following:

loan to lock in for more than two hundred seventy (270) days.

1052 (a) Identification of the property that is being 1053 purchased with the loan;

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| 1054               | h) | The  | principal | amount    | and | tarm   | οf | +h_  | loan:  |
|--------------------|----|------|-----------|-----------|-----|--------|----|------|--------|
| 103 <del>4</del> ( |    | 1116 | principal | aiiiOuiic | anu | CELIII | OT | LIIE | TOall, |

- 1055 (c) The initial interest rate and/or points, whether the interest rate is fixed or variable, and if variable, the index 1056 1057 and margin, or the method by which an interest rate change for the 1058 mortgage loan will be calculated;
- (d) The amount of the lock-in fee, whether the fee is 1059 refundable or nonrefundable, the time by which the lock-in fee 1060 must be paid to the lender, and if the fee is refundable, the 1061 terms and conditions necessary to obtain the refund; and 1062
- 1063 (e) The length of the lock-in period that the agreement 1064 covers.
- SECTION 17. Section 81-18-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 1065 1066 reenacted and amended as follows:
- 1067 81-18-29. The commissioner shall promulgate those rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, necessary for the 1068 1069 enforcement of this chapter.
- 1070 SECTION 18. Section 81-18-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is reenacted and amended as follows: 1071
- 1072 81-18-31. The department shall promulgate regulations 1073 governing the advertising of mortgage loans, including, but not 1074 limited to, the following requirements:
- 1075 (a) That all advertisements for loans regulated under 1076 this chapter may not be false, misleading or deceptive. No person 1077 whose activities are regulated under this chapter may advertise in 1078 any manner so as to indicate or imply that its interest rates or charges for loans are "recommended," "approved," "set" or 1079 1080 "established" by the State of Mississippi;
- 1081 That all licensees shall maintain a copy of all 1082 advertisements citing interest rates or payment amounts primarily 1083 disseminated in this state and shall attach to each advertisement documentation that provides corroboration of the availability of 1084

| 1085 | the | interest | rate | and | terms | of | loans | and | names | the | specific | media |
|------|-----|----------|------|-----|-------|----|-------|-----|-------|-----|----------|-------|
|      |     |          |      |     |       |    |       |     |       |     |          |       |

- 1086 sources by which the advertisements were distributed;
- 1087 (c) That all published advertisements disseminated
- 1088 primarily in this state by a license shall contain the name and an
- 1089 office address of the licensee, which shall be the same as the
- 1090 name and address of the licensee on record with the department;
- 1091 (d) That an advertisement containing either a quoted
- 1092 interest rate or monthly payment amount must include:
- 1093 (i) The interest rate of the mortgage, a statement
- 1094 as to whether the rate is fixed or adjustable, and the adjustment
- 1095 index and frequency of adjustments;
- 1096 (ii) The term in years or months to fully repay
- 1097 the mortgage;
- 1098 (iii) The APR as computed under federal
- 1099 guidelines; and
- 1100 (e) That no licensee shall advertise its services in
- 1101 Mississippi in any media disseminated primarily in this state,
- 1102 whether print or electronic, without the words "Mississippi
- 1103 Licensed Mortgage Company" or "Mississippi Registered Mortgage
- 1104 Company" or, if the initial license is obtained after July 1,
- 1105 2007, the words "Licensed by the Mississippi Department of Banking
- 1106 and Consumer Finance".
- 1107 **SECTION 19.** Section 81-18-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 1108 reenacted and amended as follows:
- 1109 81-18-33. The individual borrower files of a <u>licensee</u> shall
- 1110 contain at least the following:
- 1111 (a) A mortgage origination agreement provided to the
- 1112 borrower containing at least the following statements:
- 1113 (i) "As required by Mississippi Law, (licensed
- 1114 company name) has secured a bond issued by (name of insurance
- 1115 company), a surety company authorized to do business in this

- state. A certified copy of this bond is filed with the 1116
- 1117 Mississippi Commissioner of Banking and Consumer Finance."
- (ii) "As a borrower you are protected under the 1118
- 1119 Mississippi Mortgage Consumer Protection Law."
- 1120 (iii) "Complaints against a  $\underline{\text{li}}$ censee may be made
- 1121 by contacting the:
- 1122 Mississippi Department of Banking and
- Consumer Finance 1123
- P.O. Box 23729 1124
- Jackson, MS 39225-3729"; 1125
- 1126 (b) A copy of the original loan application signed and
- 1127 dated by the licensee;
- 1128 (c) A copy of the signed closing statement as required
- by HUD or documentation of denial or cancellation of the loan 1129
- application; 1130
- 1131 A copy of the good faith estimate of costs provided
- 1132 to the borrower;
- 1133 (e) A copy of the appraisal or statement of value if
- 1134 procured as a part of the loan application process;
- 1135 (f) A copy of a loan lock-in agreement, if any,
- provided by the licensee; \* \* \* 1136
- 1137 (g) A copy of the disclosures required under Regulation
- 1138 Z of the federal Truth In Lending Act and other disclosures as
- 1139 required under federal regulations and evidence that those
- 1140 disclosures have been properly and timely made to the borrower;
- 1141 and
- 1142 (h) A copy of the final signed Uniform Residential Loan
- Application. 1143
- Section 81-18-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is SECTION 20. 1144
- 1145 reenacted and amended as follows:

- 81-18-35. Each licensee shall maintain a journal of mortgage 1146
- 1147 transactions at the principal place of business as stated on its
- license, which shall include at least the following information: 1148
- 1149 Name of applicant and co-applicant, if applicable;
- 1150 (b) Date of application; and
- 1151 Disposition of loan application, indicating date of (C)
- 1152 loan funding, loan denial, withdrawal and name of lender if
- 1153 applicable.
- SECTION 21. Section 81-18-36, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 1154
- 1155 reenacted and amended as follows:
- 1156 81-18-36. (1) (a) All monies paid to a licensee for
- 1157 payment of taxes, loan commitment deposits, work completion
- 1158 deposits, appraisals, credit reports or insurance premiums on
- 1159 property that secures any loan made or serviced by the licensee
- 1160 shall be deposited in an account that is insured by the Federal
- 1161 Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union
- 1162 Administration and shall be kept separate, distinct, and apart
- 1163 from funds belonging to the licensee.
- 1164 (b) The funds, when deposited, are to be designated as
- 1165 an "escrow account," or under some other appropriate name,
- 1166 indicating that the funds are not the funds of the licensee.
- 1167 (2) The licensee shall, upon reasonable notice, account to
- 1168 any debtor whose property secures a loan made by the licensee for
- 1169 any funds which that person has paid to the <a href="licensee">licensee</a> for the
- 1170 payment of taxes or insurance premiums on the property in
- 1171 question.
- 1172 The licensee shall, upon reasonable notice, account to
- 1173 the commissioner for all funds in the company's escrow account.
- Escrow accounts are not subject to execution or 1174
- 1175 attachment on any claim against the licensee.
- (5) It is unlawful for any licensee knowingly to keep or 1176
- 1177 cause to be kept any funds or money in any bank or other financial

- institution under the heading of "escrow account" or any other 1178
- 1179 name designating the funds or monies belonging to the debtors of
- 1180 the licensee, except actual funds paid to the licensee for the
- 1181 payment of taxes and insurance premiums on property securing loans
- 1182 made or serviced by the company.
- SECTION 22. Section 81-18-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 1183
- 1184 reenacted and amended as follows:
- 81-18-37. (1) The department may suspend or revoke any 1185
- license or registration for any reason that would have been 1186
- 1187 grounds for refusal to issue an original license or registration
- 1188 or for:
- (a) A violation of any provision of this chapter or any 1189
- 1190 rule or regulation adopted under this chapter;
- Failure of the licensee or registrant to pay, 1191 (b)
- within thirty (30) days after it becomes final and nonappealable, 1192
- 1193 a judgment recovered in any court within this state by a claimant
- 1194 or creditor in an action arising out of the licensee's or
- 1195 registrant's business in this state as a mortgage broker or
- 1196 mortgage lender.
- 1197 (2) Notice of the department's intention to enter an order
- 1198 denying an application for a license or registration under this
- 1199 chapter or of an order suspending or revoking a license or
- 1200 registration under this chapter shall be given to the applicant,
- 1201 licensee or registrant in writing, sent by registered or certified
- 1202 mail addressed to the principal place of business of the
- applicant, licensee or registrant. Within thirty (30) days of the 1203
- date of the notice of intention to enter an order of denial, 1204
- 1205 suspension or revocation under this chapter, the applicant,
- 1206 licensee or registrant may request in writing a hearing to contest
- 1207 the order. If a hearing is not requested in writing within thirty
- (30) days of the date of the notice of intention, the department 1208
- 1209 shall enter a final order regarding the denial, suspension or

- revocation. Any final order of the department denying, suspending 1210
- 1211 or revoking a license or registration shall state the grounds upon
- 1212 which it is based and shall be effective on the date of issuance.
- 1213 A copy of the final order shall be forwarded promptly by
- 1214 registered or certified mail addressed to the principal place of
- 1215 business of the applicant, licensee or registrant.
- 1216 SECTION 23. Section 81-18-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- reenacted as follows: 1217
- 81-18-39. (1) For purposes of this section, the term 1218
- 1219 "person" shall be construed to include any officer, director,
- employee, affiliate or other person participating in the conduct 1220
- 1221 of the affairs of the person subject to the orders issued under
- 1222 this section.
- 1223 (2) If the department reasonably determines that a person
- 1224 required to be licensed or registered under this chapter has
- 1225 violated any law of this state or any order or regulation of the
- 1226 department, the department may issue a written order requiring the
- person to cease and desist from unlawful or unauthorized 1227
- 1228 practices. In the case of an unlawful purchase of mortgage loans,
- 1229 the cease and desist order to a purchaser shall constitute the
- 1230 knowledge required under this section for any subsequent
- 1231 violations.
- 1232 (3) Any person required to be licensed or registered under
- this chapter who has been deemed by the commissioner, after notice 1233
- 1234 and hearing, to have violated the terms of any order properly
- issued by the department under this section shall be liable for a 1235
- 1236 civil penalty not to exceed Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00).
- The department, in determining the amount of the penalty, shall 1237
- 1238 take into account the appropriateness of the penalty relative to
- 1239 the size of the financial resources of the person, the good faith
- efforts of the person to comply with the order, the gravity of the 1240
- 1241 violation, the history of previous violations by the person, and

- other factors or circumstances that contributed to the violation. 1242
- 1243 The department may compromise, modify or refund any penalty that
- 1244 has been imposed under this section. Any person assessed a
- 1245 penalty as provided in this subsection shall have the right to
- 1246 request a hearing on the amount of the penalty within ten (10)
- 1247 days after receiving notification of the assessment. If no
- 1248 hearing is requested within ten (10) days of the receipt of the
- 1249 notice, the penalty shall be final except as to judicial review in
- the Chancery Court of the First Judicial District of Hinds County. 1250
- 1251 Upon the filing of a petition for judicial review, the court shall
- 1252 issue an order to the licensee requiring the licensee to show
- 1253 cause why it should not be entered. If the court determines,
- after a hearing upon the merits or after failure of the person to 1254
- 1255 appear when so ordered, that the order of the department was
- properly issued, it shall grant the penalty sought by the 1256
- 1257 department.
- 1258 SECTION 24. Section 81-18-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 1259 reenacted and amended as follows:
- 1260 81-18-41. Nothing in this chapter shall preclude a person
- 1261 whose license \* \* \* has been suspended or revoked from continuing
- 1262 to service mortgage loans pursuant to servicing contracts in
- 1263 existence at the time of the suspension or revocation for a
- 1264 reasonable transition period, as determined by the commissioner,
- 1265 after the date of the entry of the final decision in the case
- 1266 suspending or revoking the license.
- 1267 SECTION 25. Section 81-18-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 1268 reenacted and amended as follows:
- 1269 81-18-43. (1) In addition to any other penalty that may be
- 1270 applicable, any licensee, person required to be registered, or
- 1271 employee who willfully violates any provision of this chapter, or
- 1272 who willfully makes a false entry in any document specifically
- 1273 required by this chapter, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and,

- upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine not in excess of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per violation or false entry.
- 1277 (2) In addition to any other penalty that may be applicable,
  1278 any licensee, <u>person</u> required to be registered, or employee who
  1279 fails to make a record of a mortgage transaction and subsequently
  1280 sells or disposes of the mortgage from that transaction shall be
  1281 punished as follows:
- (a) For a first offense, the licensee, <u>person</u> required to be registered, or employee shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine not in excess of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one (1) year, or both fine and imprisonment;
- 1288 (b) For a second or subsequent offense, the licensee,

  1289 person required to be registered, or employee shall be guilty of a

  1290 felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine

  1291 not in excess of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) or by

  1292 imprisonment in the custody of the State Department of Corrections

  1293 for a term not less than one (1) year nor more than five (5)

  1294 years, or by both fine and imprisonment.
- 1295 (3) Compliance with the criminal provisions of this section 1296 shall be enforced by the appropriate law enforcement agency, which 1297 may exercise for that purpose any authority conferred upon the 1298 agency by law.
- (4) When the commissioner has reasonable cause to believe that a person is violating any provision of this chapter, the commissioner, in addition to and without prejudice to the authority provided elsewhere in this chapter, may enter an order requiring the person to stop or to refrain from the violation.

  The commissioner may sue in any chancery court of the state having jurisdiction and venue to enjoin the person from engaging in or

- 1306 continuing the violation or from doing any act in furtherance of
- 1307 the violation. In such an action, the court may enter an order or
- 1308 judgment awarding a preliminary or permanent injunction.
- 1309 The commissioner may, after notice and hearing, impose a
- 1310 civil penalty against any licensee if the licensee, person
- 1311 required to be registered, or employee is adjudged by the
- 1312 commissioner to be in violation of the provisions of this chapter.
- The civil penalty shall not exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) 1313
- per violation and shall be deposited into the Consumer Finance 1314
- 1315 Fund of the department.
- 1316 (6) The commissioner may make public any final
- 1317 administrative action imposed against a licensee or registrant for
- a violation of this chapter, including cease and desist orders, 1318
- 1319 civil monetary penalties, license suspensions, revocations or
- application denials. 1320
- 1321 (7) The state may enforce its rights under the surety bond
- 1322 as required in Section 81-18-11 as an available remedy for the
- 1323 collection of any civil penalties, criminal fines or costs of
- investigation and/or prosecution incurred. 1324
- 1325 SECTION 26. Section 81-18-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 1326 reenacted as follows:
- 1327 81-18-45. The commissioner may employ the necessary
- 1328 full-time employees above the number of permanent full-time
- employees authorized for the department for the fiscal year 2001, 1329
- 1330 to carry out and enforce the provisions of this chapter. The
- 1331 commissioner also may expend the necessary funds and equip and
- 1332 provide necessary travel expenses for those employees.
- 1333 SECTION 27. Section 81-18-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 1334 reenacted as follows:
- 1335 81-18-47. (1) A licensee under this chapter shall have no
- liability for any act or practice done or omitted in conformity 1336
- 1337 with (a) any rule or regulation of the commissioner, or (b) any

- 1338 rule, regulation, interpretation or approval of any other state or
- 1339 federal agency or any opinion of the Attorney General,
- 1340 notwithstanding that after such act or omission has occurred the
- 1341 rule, regulation, interpretation, approval or opinion is amended,
- 1342 rescinded, or determined by judicial or other authority to be
- 1343 invalid for any reason.
- 1344 (2) A licensee under this chapter, acting in conformity with
- 1345 a written interpretation or approval by an official or employee of
- 1346 any state or federal agency or department, shall be presumed to
- 1347 have acted in accordance with applicable law, notwithstanding that
- 1348 after such act has occurred, the interpretation or approval is
- 1349 amended, rescinded, or determined by judicial or other authority
- 1350 to be incorrect or invalid for any reason.
- 1351 **SECTION 28.** Section 81-18-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 1352 reenacted as follows:
- 1353 81-18-49. Notwithstanding any provisions of this chapter to
- 1354 the contrary, mortgage companies engaging in business on or before
- 1355 June 1, 2000, shall be duly licensed by the department after
- 1356 submitting not later than January 1, 2001, the required documents
- 1357 and fees provided in Sections 81-18-9 and 81-18-15. However, upon
- 1358 the expiration of the initial licenses for such mortgage
- 1359 companies, the department shall renew the licenses only if the
- 1360 mortgage companies satisfy all of the provisions of this chapter.
- 1361 **SECTION 29.** Section 81-18-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 1362 amended as follows:
- 1363 81-18-51. Sections 81-18-1 through 81-18-49 shall stand
- 1364 repealed on July 1, 2012.
- 1365 **SECTION 30.** The following shall be codified as a separate
- 1366 section within Chapter 18, Title 81, Mississippi Code of 1972:
- 1367 81-18-\_\_\_. (1) The Legislature finds that a uniform
- 1368 multistate administration of a multistate licensing system for
- 1369 mortgage brokers, mortgage lenders and mortgage loan originators

- is consistent with both the public interest and the provisions of 1370
- 1371 this chapter; therefore, the department may participate in such a
- 1372 system whereby each requirement is consistent with both the public
- 1373 interest and the provisions of this chapter. These new
- 1374 requirements shall include criminal background checks by the FBI
- 1375 and the Mississippi Department of Public Safety.
- 1376 (2) Nothing in this section shall authorize the commissioner
- 1377 to require any person exempt from licensure under the Mississippi
- 1378 Mortgage Consumer Protection Law to participate in the multistate
- 1379 licensing system.
- 1380 (3) Except for the commissioner, or his designee, no person
- shall be authorized to obtain information from the multistate 1381
- licensing database that they could not otherwise have obtained 1382
- 1383 prior to the state's adoption of the multistate licensing system
- under then existing state law. No information obtained from the 1384
- 1385 multistate licensing system shall be admissible as evidence in, or
- 1386 used to initiate, a civil proceeding in this state unless such
- 1387 information would have been available prior to the state's
- adoption of the multistate licensing system under then existing 1388
- 1389 law.
- 1390 (4)The commissioner shall notify the multistate licensing
- 1391 system if the system adopts or intends to adopt a notification
- 1392 policy regarding privacy, data security, and security breach that
- are inconsistent with any applicable Mississippi laws. 1393
- 1394 (5) The commissioner may require a participating
- licensee/registrant to submit a processing fee, administrative fee 1395
- 1396 or similar fee to the multistate licensing system; however, any
- such fee shall be considered a licensing fee as provided in 1397
- Sections 81-18-5(1) and 81-18-15. 1398
- 1399 SECTION 31. (1) A person commits the offense of residential
- 1400 mortgage fraud when, with the intent to defraud such person, he:

| 1401 | (a) Knowingly makes any deliberate misstatement,                  |
|------|---|
| 1402 | misrepresentation or omission during the mortgage lending process |
| 1403 | with the intention that it be relied on by a licensed mortgage    |
| 1404 | broker or mortgage lender, borrower or any other party to the     |

1405 mortgage lending process;

mortgage lending process;

- (b) Knowingly uses or facilitates the use of any 1406 1407 deliberate misstatement, misrepresentation or omission, knowing 1408 the same to contain a misstatement, misrepresentation or omission, 1409 during the mortgage lending process with the intention that it be 1410 relied on by a company, borrower, or any other party to the
- (c) Receives any proceeds or any other funds in 1412 1413 connection with a residential mortgage closing that such person 1414 knew resulted from a violation of paragraph (a) or (b) of this 1415 subsection;
- 1416 (d) Conspires to violate any of the provisions of 1417 paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of this subsection; or
- (e) Files or causes to be filed with the chancery clerk 1418 1419 of any county of this state any deed of trust such person knows to 1420 contain a deliberate misstatement, misrepresentation or omission.
- 1421 (2) An offense of residential mortgage fraud shall not be 1422 predicated solely upon information lawfully disclosed under 1423 federal disclosure laws, regulations and interpretations related 1424 to the mortgage lending process.
- 1425 (3) For the purposes of venue under this section, any violation of this section shall be considered to have been 1426 1427 committed:
- 1428 In the county in which the residential property for 1429 which a mortgage loan is being sought is located;
- 1430 (b) In any county in which any act was performed in furtherance of this violation; 1431

| 1432 | (c) | In any | county | in | which | any | person | alleged | to | have |
|------|-----|--------|--------|----|-------|-----|--------|---------|----|------|
|------|-----|--------|--------|----|-------|-----|--------|---------|----|------|

- 1433 violated this chapter had control or possession of any proceeds of
- 1434 this violation;
- 1435 (d) If a closing occurred, in any county in which the
- 1436 closing occurred; or
- 1437 (e) In any county in which a document containing a
- 1438 deliberate misstatement, misrepresentation or omission is filed
- 1439 with the chancery clerk.
- District attorneys and the Attorney General shall have 1440 (4)
- 1441 the authority to conduct the criminal investigation of all cases
- 1442 of residential mortgage fraud under this section.
- 1443 (5) (a) Any person violating this section shall be guilty
- 1444 of a felony and, upon conviction, shall be punished by
- 1445 imprisonment for not less than one (1) year nor more than ten (10)
- years, by a fine not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), 1446
- 1447 or both.
- 1448 If a violation of this section involves engaging or
- 1449 participating in a pattern of residential mortgage fraud or a
- conspiracy or endeavor to engage or participate in a pattern of 1450
- 1451 residential mortgage fraud, the violation shall be punishable by
- 1452 imprisonment for not less than three (3) years nor more than
- 1453 twenty (20) years, by a fine not to exceed One Hundred Thousand
- 1454 Dollars (\$100,000.00), or both.
- 1455 (c) Each residential property transaction subject to a
- 1456 violation of this section shall constitute a separate offense and
- shall not merge with any other crimes set forth in this section. 1457
- 1458 (6) All real and personal property of every kind used or
- 1459 intended for use in the course of, derived from, or realized
- through a violation of this section shall be subject to forfeiture 1460
- 1461 to the state. Forfeiture shall be had by the same procedure as
- outlined in Sections 97-43-9 and 97-43-11. District attorneys and 1462

- the Attorney General may commence forfeiture proceedings under this section.
- 1465 (7) For purposes of this section, the term "pattern of residential mortgage fraud" means one or more violations of subsection (1) of this section that involve two (2) or more residential properties which have the same or similar intents, results, accomplices, victims or methods of commission or otherwise are interrelated by distinguishing characteristics.
- 1471 **SECTION 32.** This act shall take effect and be in force from 1472 and after July 1, 2007.

## Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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AN ACT TO REENACT SECTIONS 81-18-1 THROUGH 81-18-49,
 1
    MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, KNOWN AS THE MISSISSIPPI MORTGAGE
 3
    CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW; TO AMEND REENACTED SECTION 81-18-3,
 4
    MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS; TO AMEND
 5
    REENACTED SECTION 81-18-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DELETE THE
    EXEMPTION FOR ANY PERSON WHO IS A WHOLESALE LENDER OR WHO IS
 б
 7
    REGISTERED BY CERTAIN FEDERAL AGENCIES; TO AMEND REENACTED SECTION
 8
    81-18-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DELETE THE REFERENCES TO
 9
     "NATURAL PERSON" AND TO "REGISTRATION"; TO AMEND REENACTED SECTION
    81\text{--}18\text{--}9 , MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSE; TO AMEND REENACTED SECTION 81\text{--}18\text{--}11 ,
10
11
12
    MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DELETE THE CLASSIFICATION OF
     "CORRESPONDENT LENDER" IN REGARD TO THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF SURETY
13
    BOND; TO AMEND REENACTED SECTION 81-18-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
14
15
    1972, TO AUTHORIZE A DESIGNATED THIRD PARTY TO CONDUCT BACKGROUND
16
    INVESTIGATIONS OF APPLICANTS AND TO REVISE THE LICENSING CRITERIA
17
    WITH REGARD TO PRIOR CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS; TO AMEND REENACTED
    SECTION 81-18-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CHANGE THE ANNUAL
18
19
    RENEWAL DATE AND TO REVISE THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT;
    TO AMEND REENACTED SECTION 81-18-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
20
    REQUIRE THE ORIGINAL LICENSE TO BE POSTED IN EACH PLACE OF
21
22
    BUSINESS AND TO REQUIRE THE FILING OF A LOAN ORIGINATOR
    APPLICATION; TO AMEND REENACTED SECTION 81-18-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE
23
24
    OF 1972, TO REQUIRE APPROVAL BEFORE A LICENSEE MAY STORE FILES AT
    AN OFF-SITE SECURE LOCATION; TO AMEND REENACTED SECTION 81-18-23,
25
26
    MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY; TO AMEND REENACTED
27
    SECTION 81-18-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE REQUIREMENTS
    FOR OFFICES WHERE THERE IS NO ZONING IN THE REQUESTED LOCATION; TO AMEND REENACTED SECTION 81-18-27, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
28
29
    REVISE THE PROHIBITED ACTS OF MORTGAGE COMPANIES; TO AMEND
30
31
    REENACTED SECTION 81-18-28, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN
32
    CONFORMITY; TO AMEND REENACTED SECTION 81-18-29, MISSISSIPPI CODE
33
    OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TO ESTABLISH BY
    RULE SUCH REQUIREMENTS AS ARE NECESSARY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF
34
    THIS ACT; TO AMEND REENACTED SECTION 81-18-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
35
36
    1972, TO REQUIRE INDIVIDUAL BORROWER FILES TO CONTAIN A FINAL
37
    SIGNED UNIFORM RESIDENTIAL LOAN APPLICATION; TO AMEND REENACTED
38
    SECTION 81-18-33, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE REQUIRED
    CONTENTS OF INDIVIDUAL BORROWER FILES OF A LICENSEE; TO AMEND
39
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40 REENACTED SECTION 81-18-35, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE NAME OF CO-APPLICANT IN THE JOURNAL OF MORTGAGE TRANSACTIONS; TO AMEND REENACTED SECTIONS 81-18-36 AND 81-18-37, MISSISSIPPI 41

42

CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY; TO AMEND REENACTED SECTION 81-18-41 43

MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT A SUSPENDED LICENSEE MAY 44

CONTINUE SERVICING CONTRACTS ONLY FOR A REASONABLE TRANSITION 45

46 PERIOD AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER; TO AMEND REENACTED

47

SECTION 81-18-43, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY; TO AMEND SECTION 81-18-51, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXTEND THE 48

49 REPEALER; TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT

OF BANKING AND CONSUMER FINANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A MULTISTATE 50

51

LICENSING SYSTEM FOR MORTGAGE BROKERS, LENDERS AND LOAN ORIGINATORS; TO CREATE A NEW SECTION TO CREATE THE CRIMINAL 52

OFFENSE OF RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE FRAUD AND PRESCRIBE THE PENALTIES 53

54 THEREFOR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

> CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED) X (SIGNED)

Mettetal Guice

X (SIGNED) X (SIGNED)

Tollison Moss

X (SIGNED) X (SIGNED) Wilemon Holloway